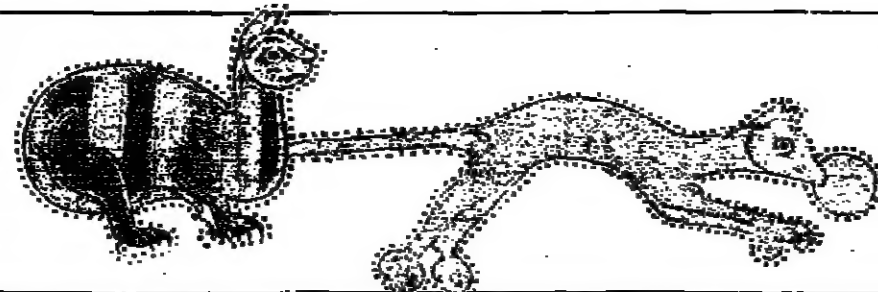


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THE TIMES

SATURDAY JANUARY 20 1990

30p

Russia warns of 'national catastrophe' Army command set for Azerbaijan showdown

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

Soviet army commanders were heading for a showdown with Muslim forces blockading Azerbaijan last night as the Government declared the country was on the brink of a national catastrophe.

At least three soldiers were reported killed as fighting raged in villages and border regions.

Militants setting up road-blocks were firing on troops and observers said the 24,000 reservists, interior ministry and KGB troops sent in to calm the situation were likely to open fire soon unless the violence abated.

President Gorbachev yesterday denounced extremists and Muslim fundamentalists for fanning ethnic hatred and promised in a Kremlin speech to do whatever was needed to stop the situation worsening.

And the Central Committee

of the party, the Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government issued an urgent appeal to Armenians and Azerbaijanis to listen to the voice of reason, curb extremists, support law enforcement bodies and the Soviet troops.

Otherwise, they said, "today's tragedy may turn into tomorrow's national catastrophe."

The appeal said the country could not tolerate irresponsible criminal actions, violence and vandalism, and

reaching the centre of Baku. There were further demonstrations outside the Communist Party headquarters, demanding the withdrawal of all Soviet troops. Local Popular Front leaders insisted the army must not intervene.

Tass said the situation had worsened over the past 24 hours, during which the official death toll rose to 72. Extremists in both republics had seized hostages, both civilian and military. More weapons and ammunition had also been captured in Armenia.

The newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* said yesterday that if the masses did not calm down, it could soon lead to what it called "unpredictable events". Another paper, *Trud*, said some Azerbaijanis had threatened to lie down in front of oncoming tanks.

The army has set up special tribunals to deal with those arrested for instigating violence and arson, and more than 200 people have been detained.

But Tass said that extremists appeared to be increasing their actions. Three trainloads of soldiers were held up and servicemen have been threatened and jeered. In the town of Masally, a group of "hoodlums" besieged the local police station for two hours and demanded the police surrender power.

The situation was also worsening in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian-populated enclave that is the main source of friction between the two republics, with dwindling supplies of food and an increasingly tight blockade all around.

A further 500 Soviet soldiers were flown into the region, but many more are needed to face the growing concentration of Azerbaijanis determined to assert their control over the hilly area.

Protest crushed as Gattings rebels fly in



Put to flight: Johannesburg police using dogs to break up a demonstration at Jan Smuts airport against the four of the rebel cricket team led by Mike Gattings.

Retail prices ease fears of rise in interest rates

By Colin Narbroogh, Economics Correspondent

Better-than-expected retail prices data yesterday gave support to the view of Mr John Major, the Chancellor, that inflation has stabilized and helped to assuage fears that interest rates might have to be raised again.

But, while the retail price index only rose by a seasonally-adjusted 0.3 per cent to 118.8 (base 1980) last month, giving an unchanged year-on-year increase of 7.7 per cent, bank lending, money supply and consumer spending figures appeared to signal a setback in cooling down the

economy. City forecasters had anticipated the RPI rising to 7.9 per cent, or even 8 per cent, fuelling pay demands still further and threatening to wreck the Government's anti-inflation strategy. In his

Full report.....17

autumn statement, Mr Major had forecast 7.5 per cent in the final quarter.

While price changes in the pipeline point to a possible dip in the inflation rate in the next month or so, many economists fear that it is likely to

Whole future of tour is in doubt

From Richard Streeton and Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The unofficial English cricket tour to South Africa was thrown into immediate doubt yesterday as peaceful anti-apartheid demonstrations were broken up by police using tear gas and dogs just before Mike Gattings' team arrived at Jan Smuts Airport, near Johannesburg.

Among the demonstrators was Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela, the jailed African National Congress leader who is expected to be released at any time.

The 16 English cricketers looked tired and tense after their overnight flight, which was delayed for three hours at

Heathrow by bomb scares. The party was quickly moved to its hotel, which had been changed overnight to allow greater protection.

The Jan Smuts demonstration, involving about 150 protesters, resulted in 20 British legacy.....7
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people being injured and 10 arrested. The first reaction from officials of the South African Cricket Union was that the seven-week tour would continue, but the violence has left them shaken.

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Rajneesh dies

The Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the free-love guru from India whose pop psychology drew thousands of pink-clad followers to his commune in Oregon, has died in India yesterday at the age of 58.

Gulliver goes

Mr James Gulliver is resigning as chairman of Lowndes Queensway, the furniture group which was rescued from the brink of insolvency last night.

Kasparov 'spirited his family out of Baku'

Madrid (Reuters) — The world chess champion, Garry Kasparov, has told of his dramatic escape from Baku, spiriting away relatives on a specially-chartersed aircraft.

"My departure was the stuff of movies are made of," he told the Spanish newspaper, *El Pais*, shortly after arriving in Moscow on Thursday.

"Some friends managed to send a chartered plane to Baku and I spirited away 60 people, including most of my relatives. I saved their lives by miracle," Mr Kasparov, who is half-Armenian and half-Jewish, said. "Reaching the airport with Azeri rebels trying to block all accesses was quite an odyssey, and I didn't feel safe until I could hold my wife in my arms."



Garry Kasparov: "I saved their lives by a miracle."

A tot of whisky galore under the floor

By Kerry Gill

A cache of whisky removed from the wreck of the SS Politician, which sank off the Isle of Eriskay nearly 50 years ago, prompting Sir Compton Mackenzie's novel *Whisky Galore*, has been discovered under the floor of a croft on the neighbouring island of Barra.

The four bottles were only found during repairs by the owner, Mr David Barston, when a floorboard suddenly popped up near to the spot where he was working disclosing the bottles of White Horse whisky.

"It was a very skilled piece of joinery. You would not have known it was there," Mr Barston, a former blacksmith and furniture maker from Lancashire, said. "There were two full-sized bottles

lying flat and two half-bottles standing up in the corner at the back. However, some of the whisky had evaporated because the seals on the corks had worn away."

The bottles may well have been hidden in 1941 and forgotten as the years went by.

Whisky from the wreck changes hands for considerable sums of money. Two years ago, eight bottles from the ship, which foundered in a gale in the Sound of Eriskay in 1941, fetched £4,000 when auctioned at Christie's.

Mr Barston, however, said he was not interested in selling. The bottles, he said, belonged to the island.

"I will probably put one into the local museum, and perhaps another at the airport, where I work as a part-time

fireman. I will keep the others," he said. The croft has been empty for the past four years. Before that, it belonged to the Macdonald family, in which there were three brothers who were fishermen.

The SS Politician was en route for Jamaica when it sank. Its cargo of more than 260,000 bottles of whisky was looted by islanders in spite of efforts by the authorities to recover them.

There were 40 arrests at the time and 15 people received jail sentences.

A Glasgow-based company is hoping to salvage the remaining whisky from the vessel, but has experienced difficulties in raising the £500,000 necessary to pay for the operation.

A spokesman for White Horse said it would be interested in acquiring one of the bottles.

SNP pressure over judges scandal

By Kerry Gill and Sheila Gann

Mr Jim Sillars, the Scottish Nationalist MP for Glasgow Govan, yesterday increased his pressure for further government disclosures on the alleged homosexual behaviour of some Scottish High Court judges.

who informed him. Mr Rifkind is expected to answer next week. Lord Dervaid resigned last month after being questioned about alleged homosexual behaviour.

In a series of Commons written questions he asked Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, whether a practising homosexual within the law would be barred from nomination and appointment to the Court of Sessions or would require the resignation of serving members. He also called for information about meetings between Mr Rifkind or Lord Fraser, the Lord Advocate, with Lord Hope, Lord President of the Court of Session.

He asked on what date Mr Rifkind was informed that Lord Dervaid was resigning from the Court of Session; and

Last night the Crown Office in Edinburgh issued a statement on behalf of Lord Fraser, the Lord Advocate. It said: "The Lord Advocate is responsible for investigation and prosecution of crime made known to him. No information or complaint has been provided to him which would allow him to instruct any police force or procurator fiscal to carry out a criminal investigation."

"Any rumour which has been conveyed to him has contained no sufficient specification for such instructions. But what checks could be made have been made. They have revealed no basis

Continued on page 16, col 7

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Ministers attacked over reports of extra cash in 999 dispute

By Philip Webster and Tim Jones

The Government faced renewed attack last night for its handling of the ambulance dispute as it was forced to rush out a denial of reports that it was ready to increase its pay offer of a basic 9 per cent over 18 months.

The confusion came as union leaders were mounting a nationwide counter-attack to prevent growing calls for an all-out strike.

Labour leaders accused ministers of plunging the affair into a "thick fog" after Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, issued a statement yesterday morning, in response to the reports, in which he said: "There is no more money on offer."

Eleven days ago Mr Clarke had to deny some newspaper reports of a briefing which he had given to Sunday newspaper correspondents.

Yesterday he had to react after one of his junior aides told journalists non-attributably that the offer could be increased if the unions dropped their demand for a salary mechanism guaranteeing automatic inflation-proofed rises. The source was

clearly speaking out of turn, and angered Mr Clarke, but it was unclear yesterday whether the source was giving an accurate account of the true position.

However in a further move to undermine the reports the Department of Health said the aide had taken no part in the discussions or the negotiations on the dispute.

In any event the reports were damaging to the Government's stance, and Mr Clarke moved swiftly to state: "Unfortunately the situation has not changed in the last week. There is no more money on offer. There can be no question of a formula for the pay of ambulancemen and women."

The Government was deeply embarrassed by the reports. Mr Robin Cook, shadow health secretary, said: "They have been and done it again. If the Department of Health has learnt nothing about industrial relations, I would have hoped by now they would have learnt something about public relations."

"They cannot continue to get away with making the dispute more difficult to solve by briefing journalists one day

and denying it the next. What worries me about this latest outbreak of thick fog is that the department are now denying that they would offer even another 2%. If they are going to continue to stonewall there is not going to be any breakthrough."

The unions claimed the confusion which prompted Mr Clarke's statement was deliberately engineered by Whitehall to "muddy the waters" and blur the public's perception of the dispute.

Union leaders, who next Thursday will meet to discuss overall strategy face a stern test on Tuesday when a number of shop stewards from the London service are expected to demand a national ballot for an all-out strike.

About 40 ambulancemen who since last Wednesday had barricaded themselves into Hillingdon station were ordered yesterday by a High Court judge to allow management access to the premises. A spokesman for the London Ambulance Service said the action was taken because Hillingdon is one of the stations which serves Heathrow airport.

Marsh is remanded in custody

By Stewart Teadler
Crime Correspondent

Terry Marsh, the former world light-welterweight boxing champion, was last night in Wormwood Scrubs prison after being remanded in custody charged with attempting to murder Mr Frank Warren, his former manager, and possession of 10 rounds of 9 mm ammunition.

A large crowd gathered outside Barking Magistrates' Court in east London for Mr Marsh's arrival, a few hundred yards from the street where Mr Warren was shot last November.

Mr Marsh was charged on Thursday night after he was arrested at Gatwick airport after a trip to the United States.

Mr Marsh, aged 31, was brought from Hackney police station to the cells at Barking before 6am. Dressed in a purple and black tracksuit he was led into court to appear before Mrs Dorothy Revington, chairman of the bench, and two other magistrates.

Mrs Maisie Marsh, his mother, sat at the back of the small public gallery packed with reporters. Mr Ambrose Mendy - Mr Marsh's manager - and Nigel Benn, the leading British middleweight boxer and a friend of Mr Marsh, were also present.

Det Sgt Jeff Rees, leading the investigation, stood at the back of the court as Mrs Revington told Mr Marsh: "Stand up lad," and remanded him for seven days.



Terry Marsh is shielded by police as he leaves court after being remanded in custody.

Tory poll tax attack rejected by Labour

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

A bitter political dispute erupted yesterday over ministerial claims that Labour councils had been deliberately inflating the cost of the community charge in the hope of causing resentment against the Government.

Labour leaders labelled the accusation a "deception" as ministers went on the offensive after the community charge cleared its final hurdle in the Commons on Thursday despite a big rebellion by Conservative MPs.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, urged councils to cut back their budgets to reduce the charge they will have to levy when the tax comes into operation in April.

Mr Baker, questioned on BBC Radio, said the Government had documentary evidence that Labour local authorities were lumping various items of expenditure on to the budget and then blaming the Government for the level of the poll tax.

Dr John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, dismissed the Tory suggestion, however, describing it as "a deplorable deception".

Leader article, page 12

NEWS ROUNDUP

Peers to avoid abortion clash

The Duke of Norfolk and other pro-life peers have agreed informally not to change the right to abortion through amendments to the Warnock legislation on human embryo experiments (Sheila Gunn writes).

The House of Lords will leave it to MPs to decide whether the abortion laws should be changed within the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill when it reaches the Commons in the spring.

Whips in both Houses have been examining ways to minimize televised clashes this session over the issue of abortion and, in an unprecedented move, they have decided to run the Warnock Bill in the Lords in tandem with a private Bill, introduced by the Labour peer Lord Houghton of Sowerby. The device would enable the Lords to make clear its view on abortion without disrupting the Warnock legislation.

Although Lord Houghton's Abortion (Amendment) Bill has little chance of becoming law, MPs will have the choice of transferring its provisions to the Warnock legislation or making their own amendments. It brings forward the time limit for abortion from 28 to 24 weeks.

Helicopter saves six

The six-man crew of the St Simon, a trawler owned by the Colne Fishing Company of Lowestoft, was winched from lifeboats into rescue helicopters yesterday after abandoning the 197-tonne vessel when it capsized in rough seas. Two RAF helicopters flew to the scene in the North Sea 80 miles east of Bridlington as a Dutch Navy maritime patrol aircraft monitored the rescue operation and relayed information to coastguards. None of the men was injured.

Transport jobs lost

Almost 200 workers with the Scottish Transport Group are to lose their jobs after a review of its subsidiary company, SBG Engineering. The company's workshops at Edinburgh and Motherwell will stop trading on March 2, with 86 employees in Edinburgh, 97 in Motherwell and 12 at the company's head office being made redundant. Workshops in Inverness, Kilmarnock and Kirkcaldy are being transferred to subsidiary companies.

Fox hunting protest

Animal rights activists from Scotland and northern England will join forces today to protest against Scotland's largest fox hunt, the Borders-based Duke of Buccleuch's Foxhounds. The action is being organized by the Hunt Saboteurs' Association which says it will be one of its largest protests to date and will demonstrate the increasing strength of the anti-blood sports movement. Hunters and saboteurs will meet for the start of the hunt at the village of Ashkirk.

Greenpeace victory

Six members of the environmental pressure group Greenpeace walked free from court yesterday after charges connected with their attempt to stop the dumping of ash into the North Sea were dropped. Magistrates in Ashington, Northumberland, were told they had boarded the National Power ship MVA about 350 miles off the north-east coast on Tuesday and forced it to change course. National Power has temporarily suspended dumping.

Cowardice not proved

The Director of Public Prosecutions says there is insufficient evidence to take action against two police officers accused of cowardice during a New Year's Eve riot. One of the two policemen, who was suspended during the investigation, has been reinstated. The case arose from a riot at Chudleigh, Devon, in which three police officers were injured. A newspaper claimed that the two officers sat in their patrol car while their colleagues were being attacked.

Scots group attacks 'loss of democracy'

By Kerry Gill

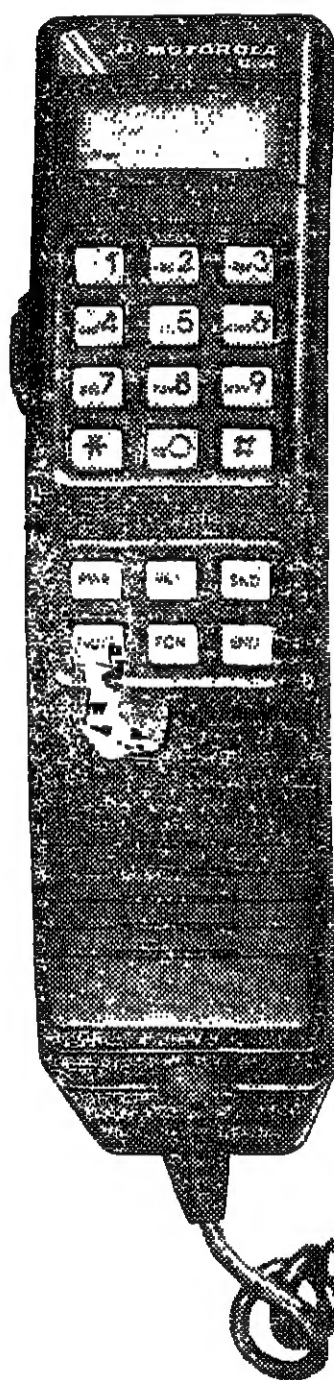
Scotland is hamstrung by an archaic constitutional system that ties it to a minority government stuck in a time-war and is denied real democracy, the country's Home Rule pressure group was told yesterday.

Europe was changing by the hour, but Scotland was forced to live in the past under the yoke of Westminster, Canon Kenyon Wright told members of the Scottish Constitutional Convention meeting in Glasgow. More than 300 people, including MPs, churchmen, trade unionists and councillors, attended the third full meeting of the convention since it was established almost a year ago with the signing of a

Claim of Right, designed to put Scotland firmly on the path towards home rule.

The convention has attempted to mobilize opinion in favour of a separate Scottish parliament, with substantial economic and fiscal powers, in spite of being condemned by the Conservatives and boycotted by the Scottish National Party.

By the way, the Times overseas edition is available in the following countries: Australia \$12.00, Canada \$12.00, Cyprus \$12.00, Denmark \$12.00, Finland \$12.00, France \$12.00, Germany \$12.00, Greece \$12.00, Hong Kong \$12.00, India \$12.00, Ireland \$12.00, Italy \$12.00, Japan \$12.00, Korea \$12.00, Malaysia \$12.00, Mexico \$12.00, New Zealand \$12.00, Norway \$12.00, Pakistan \$12.00, Portugal \$12.00, Singapore \$12.00, South Africa \$12.00, Sweden \$12.00, Switzerland \$12.00, Taiwan \$12.00, Thailand \$12.00, USA \$12.00, West Germany \$12.00, Yugoslavia \$12.00.



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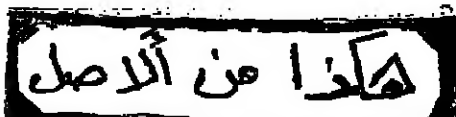
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Tory poll tax attack rejected by Labour

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

A bitter political dispute erupted yesterday over the Labour Party's decision to reject the Tory poll tax. The party's decision was seen as a major victory for the party's left wing, who had been demanding a more radical approach to the tax. The decision was made at a meeting of the party's executive committee in London. The committee voted 10 to 5 to reject the poll tax, which is a controversial tax on households. The decision was seen as a major victory for the party's left wing, who had been demanding a more radical approach to the tax. The decision was made at a meeting of the party's executive committee in London. The committee voted 10 to 5 to reject the poll tax, which is a controversial tax on households.

Wife 'offered to pay £40,000 for killing of soldier husband'

By Craig Seton

The wife of a soldier serving in Northern Ireland was prepared to pay £40,000 to have her husband murdered, it was alleged yesterday. The woman, Catherine O'Neil, 42, was alleged to have offered to pay the sum to a man who was serving in the British Army. The man was alleged to have been offered the sum of £40,000 to kill her husband, who was serving in Northern Ireland. The woman was alleged to have been offered the sum of £40,000 to kill her husband, who was serving in Northern Ireland. The woman was alleged to have been offered the sum of £40,000 to kill her husband, who was serving in Northern Ireland.

O'Neil befriended Mr Wilson and his wife Helen and occasionally stayed at their house in Coventry, where she told them how much better it would be if her husband were dead. He said: "At first they took little notice, but the remarks were repeated and they became more extreme. She knew that if Corporal O'Neil died while she was still his legal wife, she would inherit the money which would arise from his death. Not only was it life insurance, but if he died while he was still a serving soldier, a considerable sum of money would be payable from Army funds to the next of kin."

Mr Stokes said Mr Wilson became so concerned that he contacted the police. He added: "It was arranged that a police officer would adopt the role of potential assassin and, through David Wilson, a meeting was arranged." Constable Ellis met Mrs O'Neil in the Golden Pheasant public house in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. He was equipped with a hidden microphone to record the conversation, but the juke box was playing so loudly that the tape recording was drowned out. Mr Stokes said Mrs O'Neil plainly believed that Constable Ellis was a member of an organization capable of bringing about the death of her husband, who was then serving in Northern Ireland.

Lane is a dinosaur, Pickles says



Judge Pickles at his impromptu press conference in a public house in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, yesterday.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, was branded "an ancient dinosaur living in the wrong age" in an extraordinary attack yesterday by Judge Pickles, whose decision to imprison a young mother and her three-month-old child for shop theft was overturned by the Court of Appeal earlier this week (David Sapped writes).

Lord Lane presided at the hearing which replaced the prison term with a probation order. He criticized Judge Pickles for appearing more concerned with the public import of what he was doing, rather than with the justice of the case.

Yesterday, Judge Pickles returned from a holiday in Lanzarote and launched the outspoken attack on the Lord Chief Justice in an impromptu press conference in a public house in Wakefield, West Yorkshire. "I have criticized him in my latest book, I hope in moderate terms, for not doing his job properly."

Common frog abandons country home

By Ruth Gledhill

Frogs, newts and toads in Britain's ponds could be facing a national crisis, according to a new survey. If the trend continues, the days when children could collect frogs' spawn in a jar from the village pond could be drawing to a close.

The £90,000 six-year research, funded by the Nature Conservancy Council, has found an alarming decline in the number of sites capable of sustaining any amphibian life. Volunteers aged from five to 90 visited 6,500 ponds, lakes, reservoirs, water tanks and other fresh water sites. They had expected to find frogs, toads and newts in eight out of 10 but discovered the once ubiquitous common frog in only half that number.

Nearly half had no amphibians at all, although local people remembered seeing frogs and newts in the past. In other places, the ponds themselves had disappeared. Dr Swan said we appeared to be making the countryside inhospitable to them. "These animals should be ubiquitous and common. They are adaptable and require minimum consideration."

A-level success in 31 days

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

A teacher who successfully coached two teenage boys through a Business Studies A-level course in 31 days said yesterday that the examination was too easy. David Mason, from Newcastle and Anthony Griffiths from Oxford, yesterday received results slips confirming they had passed the examination which they sat in November after 31 days of part-time study. The boys, both aged 18, are studying for other A-levels, and neither had tackled the subject before.

The course they followed - set by the Associated Examining Board - is the most popular A-level Business Studies course in England, attracting 10,000 candidates a year. Mr Christopher Sivewright, Director of Studies at the Oxford School of Learning, a "cramming college" where both boys studied, said yesterday: "Naturally we are very pleased for them."

Physics - it does give one pause for thought. For Anthony, who obtained a grade E, his success had its price. Mr Sivewright had offered to charge only half fees if he failed. David, who obtained a D grade, said: "I have to agree with Mr Sivewright about the standard of the exam. Some people study for an exam for two years and then do not get it. We took 30 days from scratch. It is a farce." David said he was not an exceptional scholar. Mr Sivewright knows exactly how to pass exams. Mr Sivewright added: "We are a crammer and we do have pushy, intensive teaching, but 31 days is ridiculous."

House cost in London drops 10%

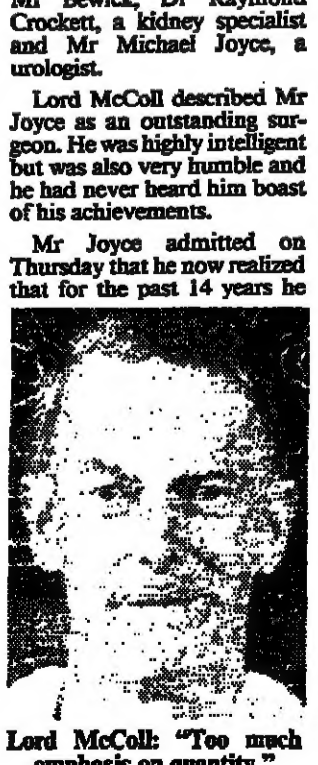
By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

House prices in London dropped by an average 10 per cent last year, bringing the average price down to £86,800, the lowest since the beginning of 1988, the London Research Centre reports in its quarterly bulletin. The largest annual fall was in Tower Hamlets, where prices plummeted by 36 per cent, and the only borough to show an increase was Westminster, which showed a rise of 2 per cent to £144,000, overtaking Kensington and Chelsea (down 18 per cent to £138,400) as the most expensive borough in London.

Kidneys-for-sale hearing

Surgeon praised for 'dedicated' work

By John Young



Lord McColl: "Too much emphasis on quantity."

A surgeon who faces charges of serious professional misconduct over alleged payments to kidney donors was described yesterday as having played a unique part in the history of transplant surgery. Professor Lord McColl, director of surgery at Guy's Hospital, south London, said that there was no one else in the world who had taken out more kidneys from cadavers than Mr Michael Bewick and very few people who had transplanted more kidneys. He was totally dedicated and had made enormous sacrifices. The problem had always been that surgeons did too much work. Lord McColl said: "There was too much emphasis on quantity. We would all have been better off if we had done less work."

Mr Bewick, Dr Raymond Crockett, a kidney specialist and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist. Lord McColl described Mr Joyce as an intelligent but also very humble and he had never heard him boast of his achievements. Mr Joyce admitted on Thursday that he now realized that for the past 14 years he had behaved unethically by operating on donors without first getting to know them and ascertaining their background and medical history. Lord McColl said that he himself had been involved in kidney transplants, but not since 1974. Asked by Mr John Goldring, QC for Mr Joyce, how much contact he would have had with the donor before an operation, he replied: "Not very much." He would have played no part in getting the donor's permission or in counselling him. He would have behaved in the same way as Mr Joyce and did not see it as his job to do any more.

Professor Cyril Chantler, professor of paediatric nephrology at Guy's, described Mr Joyce as "an excellent surgeon and also a very good doctor". Doctors had to trust colleagues and the practice of medicine would be made very difficult if they could not do so. The hearing was adjourned until February 20.

Couple face court battle for custody of pet labrador

A car mechanic is to take his former girlfriend to court to fight for the custody of his pet dog.

Mr Simon Newman has been trying to gain possession of Jodie, a golden retriever, since separating from Miss Sarah Lawrence, last year. He even attempted to snatch the dog in a car chase. The confrontation in a country lane ended with him appearing before magistrates at Exmouth, Devon, when he agreed to be bound over to keep the peace for a year and was ordered to pay £25 costs. Yesterday, Mr Newman said he was going to Exeter County Court to seek an order giving him the dog, which he said was a present from his mother.

On Tuesday, Exmouth magistrates were told that Mr Newman, aged 34, and Miss Lawrence, aged 22, had lived together in Budleigh Salterton for two and a half years until last June. Miss Sharyn Thomas, for the prosecution, said: "During the course of this relationship a dog was purchased. When Miss Lawrence left she took the dog with her." Mr Newman

persther her about the animal and for a time she went to live in Bristol to avoid any confrontation with him. On July 11, Miss Lawrence and her father were driving home after walking Jodie when they spotted Mr Newman following them. Miss Thomas said Mr Newman swerved in front of the Lawrences, forcing them to stop. He tried to grab the dog from the tailgate, but it was locked and as he took the keys from the ignition, the dog escaped. Miss Thomas said a struggle followed in which Mr Lawrence's

hand was broken as a lead tangled around his hand was pulled tight. As Mr Lawrence drove off, Mr Newman again tried to block his path, but failed to seize the dog. Mr David Williams, for the defence, said: "He was deeply upset by the breakdown of the relationship with Miss Lawrence and that she had retained the dog which he maintains belongs to him."

Miss Lawrence, a student, said yesterday: "I have got the dog at the moment but I don't want to say anything more."

NEXT WEEK



On your marks...

● The Commonwealth Games start on Thursday in Auckland, New Zealand. Don't miss *The Times* expert analysis - and the essential guide to the athletics events - next week.

● And in *The Times* on Monday, Bernard Levin writes on the injustice of prejudice: "When will the British grow up? It is not a tragedy that some Scottish judges are homosexuals, any more than that some are left-handed..."

Two share prize of £2,000

There were two winners of yesterday's Portfolio Platinum prize. Mrs Patricia Adams of Bromley in Kent was "rather overwhelmed" by her good luck. "I never expected to win anything," she said. "I do the competition every day - but only for the fun of it." She plans to invest the money for her four-month-old granddaughter, Jasmine. Mrs Adams shares the prize with Mrs Jean Anderson of Sretham, near Ely in Cambridgeshire. Each receives £1,000.

Fossil fish hailed as major find

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

A 140-million-year-old skeleton of an ichthyosaurus, a lizard-like fish, discovered below a cliff in Dorset, could be from a previously unknown species. The man who found it, Mr Peter Langham, says the skeleton, from the upper Jurassic period, is in very good condition and is hailing it as a major find. Mr Langham, owner of Dinosaurland Museum at Lyme Regis, said only one other specimen of such condition existed and this was on display at the British Museum. Excellent examples have been unearthed and documented in Dorset but these date from the earlier lower Jurassic period. Mr Langham said recent storms and powerful tides had led to his discovery at Kimmeridge after the elements stripped the beach clean of sand.

JANUARY

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Waite 'handed over' to Iranian agents' says former leader

By Hishir Teimourian and Clifford Longley

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, has been handed over to direct Iranian custody but is probably still in Lebanon, according to Mr Abolghasem Bani-Sadr, the first president of Iran after the Islamic revolution of 1979.

His assertion comes as prayers are being said in the Church of England once more this weekend, the third anniversary of the disappearance of Mr Waite in the Lebanon, for his early release and for peace in the country.

Mr Bani-Sadr, who has lived in exile in Paris since 1981 when he fell out with the Ayatollah Khomeini, said yesterday that according to very reliable information from inside the Iranian clerical establishment in Tehran, Mr Waite's Lebanese kidnappers had recently handed him over to Iranian agents in Lebanon.

He had also been told that Mr Waite was being held "under much better conditions". He did not rule out the possibility that Mr Waite might have been taken to Iran but could not see any reasons for such action.



Mr Waite: Prayers said for his early release

Young generation 'patriotic'

By Ray Clancy

Teenagers today are patriotic, like watching television, have good relationships with their parents and spend their money on clothes, magazines and records, according to a survey released yesterday.

They are optimistic about the future and do not like going to art galleries or museums, the annual survey of 1,000 teenagers with the Halifax Building Society revealed.

It is "a good age" at saving and spending habits as well as lifestyle, and asked the youngsters, aged between 12 and 16, what they thought about the future. The average amount of

pocket money rose from £3.46 a year ago to £3.60, with the amount increasing according to age. The survey found those aged 12 average £2.50 while those aged 16 have an average £5.50 a week.

Clothes were the most popular spending item; 46 per cent said pocket money went on fashion, 38 per cent said magazines, 36 per cent, records, and 27 per cent, sweets. Scottish teenagers tended to save up for a big purchase.

At least 90 per cent said they saved regularly because their parents encouraged them to

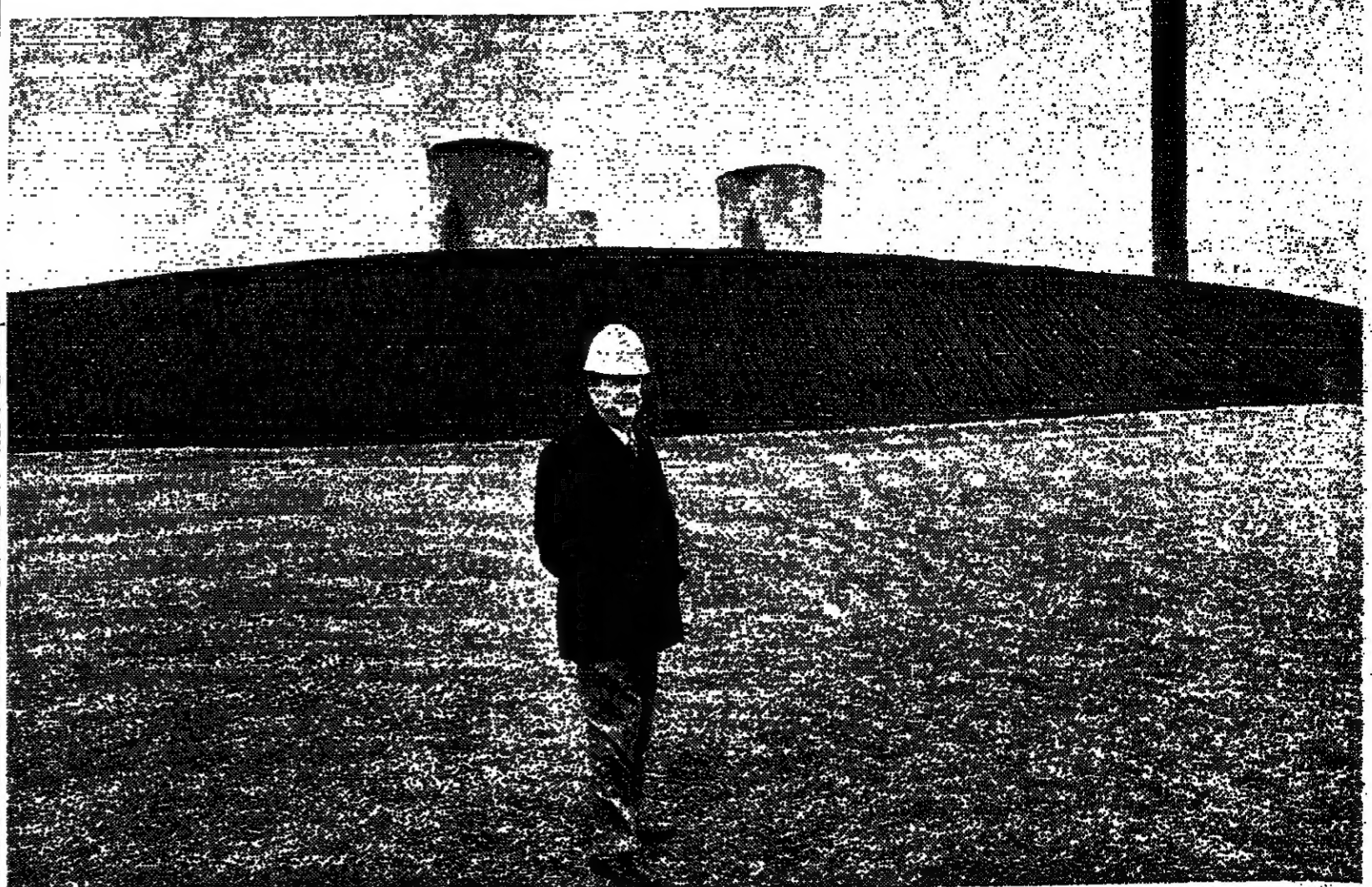
do so. They described relationships at home as good, with eight out of 10 able to talk to parents about most problems.

Most said it was important to be proud of their country, especially in Scotland, where 88 per cent described themselves as patriotic. Most respondents in Scotland and Northern Ireland said they thought there were more career opportunities in London and the South-east but were reluctant to move.

Watching television was listed by 83 per cent as a favourite pastime.

Wakeham sees power plant clean-up

ADRIAN BROOKS



Mr John Wakeham, the Secretary of State for Energy, pictured against the bleak backdrop of Didcot Power Station, Oxfordshire. He was inspecting improvements to cut sulphur and dust emissions at the coal-burning plant. They are part of a £50-million programme to clean up stations round the country.

The black rhino

Rescue charity attracts support

By Alan Franks

Offers of help have been pouring in to Adam Faith's campaign to save the black rhinoceros from extinction in Tanzania.

Since *The Times* reported the former singer's initiative of setting up a rescue charity, to which companies donate in kind rather than in cash, the Faith Foundation has been flooded a two-seater microlite aircraft by Mr Jerry Breen, who runs the Algarve Air Sports Centre in Portugal.

Equipped with video cameras, the plane will be used to assist in the searches in spring for the remaining animals after which they will be rounded up and re-introduced into an area where they can be protected from poachers.

In addition a Piper Super Cub aircraft has been offered by an anonymous British businessman with many years experience of working in the bush. This will ferry supplies across terrain unsuited to

overland transport. There has also been a further offer of financial aid from the Heron Corporation and a similar pledge from NatWest. The radio company Camford Audio has promised £5,000 worth of VHF equipment. Mr Faith, who now works in partnership with the Levitt financial services group, will receive free advice from Solomon Brothers, the investment bankers, on the possibility of negotiations between the foundation, the Tanzanian Government and creditor companies.

One of the charity's most innovative aims is to make available for local use money which might be owed to British importers but which is still lying in the country's banking system because of the absence of foreign currency. One British bank has already promised a six-figure sum through this channel.

Preparatory work is to be conducted by Solomon Brothers' New York-based department specialising in less developed countries.

Mr Faith said yesterday that he was encouraged by the response of companies and individuals. "It is not only the amount of support we have received that is tremendous, but also the nature of it. I can

foresee that the small aircraft are going to have a terrific impact on the searching phase of the operation, and that this could well represent the way ahead for similar ventures."

The operation already has the support of BP, Hilldown Holdings, Bristol Helicopters, British Airways, Shell, Land-Rover, Blacks Leisure, Theo Fennell, David Sheppard, Rank, Kodak, and Stanley Thomas, all of whom have made contributions. Of the original "shopping list" of about £500,000, the main items still to be found are two four-wheel drive lorries with winches and tip-up mechanisms; one four-seater, single engine, high-wing aircraft for personnel transport, and high frequency radios.

Tanzania has lost about 95 per cent of its rhino population since 1975 as a result of intense poaching. A single rhino horn can fetch up to £50,000.

Prisoner fights to stay in jail

A prisoner was back in jail last night after being accidentally freed from a six-month prison sentence after just one week.

A warden at Lincoln Prison miscalculated the time Mick Shooter had spent on remand, and even though he said there had to be some mistake, prison officers insisted he leave on Thursday.

After being released, Shooter, who was jailed for passing bad cheques, tried to telephone the prison governor but his call was refused.

Finally Shooter, aged 43, of Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, contacted his probation officer and was advised to turn himself in to police.

Gay verdict

A phone-in poll on the Gay Byrne radio show in the Irish Republic showed that 65.5 per cent of the 10,144 respondents favoured legalising homosexual acts between consenting adult males.

Tough line

A woman accused of a £1,700 theft sent Bradford magistrates a postcard from Paris saying: "Wish you were here". They replied by issuing an arrest warrant for Ruqya Begum, of Bradford, West Yorkshire, who had skipped bail.

Bomb hunt

Police in Ammanford, Dyfed, were yesterday searching for an arsonist after a home-made bomb exploded at the town's magistrates' court. No one was hurt.

Death crash

Three people died and three were injured when two cars collided head-on at Basford, Nottingham, yesterday.

Ownership mystery may hinder appeal to keep statue in Britain

Concern is mounting that a £7.6 million public appeal to keep the Canova sculpture "The Three Graces" in Britain may be damaged because the public are not being told the identity of the owner.

SALE ROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

As staff at the Victoria and Albert Museum prepare for the appeal launch on Monday, the Government is being urged to reveal the name.

The sculpture, which was sold by the Tavistock family to an anonymous buyer for £1.25 million in 1985, is now being offered to the Getty Museum in California by an anonymous company based in

the Cayman Islands. Britain has until March 12 to match Getty's price.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, and Mr Jonathan Scott, chairman of the reviewing committee for the export of works of art, know the name of the owner, but no one else.

Sir Hugh Leggett, secretary of Heritage in Danger, said:

"If you are asking for money from the public, you must be clean about it."

"The Government cannot just say 'We know who it is, but it's a great secret.' It is essential that the identity of the owners comes out into the open if the campaign is going to be a success."

His fears are compounded by rumours that the sculpture, created by the Italian artist Antonio Canova for a specially designed temple at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire, in the early 1800s, has changed hands since leaving Woburn in 1985. Commenting for the

first time, Maître Luc Hasner, the Swiss solicitor who represents the owners, said: "The V&A do not know the identity of our clients, because they do not need to know."

He had just returned from discussions at the V&A, where he agreed to put the work on show while fund raising is started.

The owners are, he says, "not Swiss or British. They are legitimate people, perfectly clean and wealthy. They are not dealers with a shop, they are some somewhere between art collectors and dealers."

While the National Art

Collections Fund announced yesterday it would put £250,000 towards the appeal, further questions were still hanging over the statue: whether its removal contravened the listed building law, and whether the decision by the Department of Environment not to sue should be taken to judicial review. Mr Marcus Binney, president of Save Britain's Heritage, said the matter was still being looked into.

Mr John Murdoch, deputy director at the V&A, said: "Unless some private individual raises the question of listed

building consent, our only consideration at the moment is whether we can match the price by the March 12 deadline."

The statue is now in storage in London.

Thursday was a good day for prints by James Abbott McNeill Whistler at Christie's New York. A self-portrait of the artist sketching in a jaunty ribboned hat established a new record for a print by him, selling anonymously for \$52,800 (£32,195). The estimate had been half that amount. "The Balcony", Whistler's etching of a classic

Venetian palace with a *traghetti* boat arriving to collect one of its inhabitants, sold to an American dealer for \$33,000 (£20,122) against an estimate of \$18,000.

A previously unknown watercolour of a wooded landscape by Gainsborough, sold originally in the 18th century for £3 12s, and found recently in the linen cupboard of a Buckinghamshire house, went on display at the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery in Bedford yesterday. The gallery had paid £56,000 for it in a private sale, and considered the price a bargain.

January 19 1990

PARLIAMENT

Baker attack on 'lightweight' Kinnock

A strong attack on Labour's leader and policies was launched in the Commons by Mr Kenneth Baker, Chairman of the Conservative Party.

He called Mr Neil Kinnock a lightweight, whose approach to modernising his party was deeply flawed, and accused the party of "continuing evasion and duplicity".

Speaking on a Conservative backbench motion on Labour policies, he said: "The only vision is desire for power and a desire for office at any cost." Mr Kinnock's inability to learn and his lack of qualifications for high office had not gone unnoticed, even among his supporters.

There had been a brave attempt to change the rhetoric, but Labour remained a party that wanted state ownership and would increase taxes.

Mr Ken Livingstone (Brent East, Lab) said that the 1983 manifesto had been rejected because it tried to square too many circles, rather than be clear about its commitment to unilateralism. Too many compromises had been struck.

But to compare it with the present policy review was a mistake. The policy review was not intended to be a manifesto.

Both the Labour Party and the Liberals before had failed to be sufficiently radical in transforming Britain when they held power.

The Government taking office in the early 1990s, wanting to rebuild the welfare state and expand the industrial base, could not wait for growth and would, therefore, be faced with a difficult choice: to increase taxation on ordinary people or divert resources.

The debate was opened by Mr Ian Goss (Eastbourne, C), on his motion that the policies of the Labour Party "merit scrutiny".

He said that he wanted to examine the development of the party's policy in the manifesto of 1963 and 1987 and the policy statement of 1989 - *Meet the challenge, make the change*. He then gave his detailed view on the differences in the documents, mainly on nuclear defence and rationalization.

He said that the Labour Party had not really altered its beliefs but, because it had found them unpopular, had sought to conceal them. It would not work and it was not right.

"If the Labour Party can come up with a convincing answer, we could govern through the 1990s and beyond. If we fail to do that we face repeating the failures of the Wilson and Callaghan governments."

Labour must make clear how it intended to pay for its policies. They had to decide where their priorities lay and then pursue them with vigour shown by Mrs Thatcher.

Labour policies would not be paid for by increasing the money supply and fuelling inflation, or increasing taxation to middle-income families, but by redirecting the existing wealth, which was being consumed at an excessive level on arms spending and making certain that Britain's financial institutions first served the reconstruction of our own economy before they invested abroad.

Mr Baker, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said that there was certainly no vision in Labour's policy document, no

overriding view of the future.

Was there anything new in it? The language had changed. It spoke of markets and choice and even home-owners, shareholders and taxpayers.

But what did this mean? On education, for example, the underlying reality had not changed.

"Labour believes that children in our country should go to one type of school, a school that is owned, controlled, dominated and run by a local authority."

On industrial policy, Labour's adherence to markets was purely skin deep. The whole document was based on the analysis that the market forces had failed and there was a need for massive intervention.

What about privatized companies? The language had changed. Nationalization, the old cry, had been transformed into social ownership and that had now changed again into another weasel phrase - public interest companies.

"Labour cannot resist the temptation to meddle, own and take back into public ownership."

Labour had decided not to support the closed shop when it realized that the Government was going to take action against it and that any other course would be completely indefensible in the country.

They had given the appearance of abandoning unilateralism in favour of multilateralism. But Labour was very unwilling to debate this policy. If the policy were new, why keep it under a bush? Why did the document so vague? Why did

the party leadership refuse to give straight answers?

"Are we going to give up our nuclear weapons as long as other countries have nuclear weapons targeted upon us? That is the question we will be asking again and again until polling day."

Mr Bruce Grieve, for the Opposition, said that he was not able to announce the next Party's manifesto for the next general election. "We shall announce that at our own pace and in our own time."

He rejected the notion that Labour had been reticent about spelling out the issues to be addressed. The party had undertaken the most extensive policy review that any party had ever undertaken in a democracy: 88 tightly typed pages.

Labour would be restoring the damage caused to the NHS by the Thatcher government and would scrap the absurd policy of City Technology Colleges.

He favoured reducing the working week with a new pattern of work arrangements to contract it into four days.

"There is no way we can know exactly what we can deliver when in office because we do not know what kind of a mess we are going to inherit when that day comes, though we have a fairly good idea."

One of the key functions of the next Labour Government would be to restore the confidence of the public sector, which believed, as did the Opposition, in collective provision and in the welfare state.

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Whitehall concern as industry pay lures key officials

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Ministers have been warned that the administration of the country is suffering because of the increasing salary differences between executives in private industry and key civil servants. Signs are growing that concerns over pay and anomalies within the service are forcing more Whitehall officials to consider outside offers.

More than 40 civil servants earning up to £43,000 have written to their union, the First Division Association, protesting about the situation. Some have considered resigning to earn up to £20,000 more with private firms.

The warnings, delivered in private, come amid strong indications that the Government may pay review body increases for 600 top civil servants in stages to avoid undermining its stand against the ambulance workers and its determination to curb rises.

Whitehall sources say the Government is alarmed by suggestions that the Top Salaries Review Body may be considering increases of up to

15 per cent for civil servants whose skills, experience and expertise would command big salaries in the open market.

Union leaders have complained of the "political constraints" within which they were forced to negotiate their last pay rise which they said further widened the differential between their members and comparable workers in outside industry.

Whitehall departments are suffering from a gathering staff drain as unions voice warnings that pay levels are not competitive enough to entice high-calibre recruits into the upper echelons of the service.

Unions fear that any move to effectively scale down the annual percentage increase — to be recommended by the review body in a report due before the Prime Minister by the end of the month — will severely undermine morale in the service.

In its last report, the review body, chaired by Sir David Nickson, acknowledged that there was an urgent need to

narrow the gap in pay levels. The report said: "In future years, increases must adequately reflect the responsibility of the work undertaken and maintain differentials... Not to do so, stores up greater difficulty for the future unless there is to be an unacceptable loss of quality."

"It would lead in our view to an unavoidable need for a catching-up exercise of a potentially embarrassing scale which is greater for each year it is postponed."

The committee is completing its report amid growing misgivings in the service about pay rises which came into force this month for lower grades. The effect has been that in London staff are being financially penalized when promoted: some lawyers found they were being paid more than £2,000 less than people in lower grades.

Because of anomalies, unions claim, loyalty is being stretched to breaking point. One under-secretary wrote: "I am now £3,607 worse off than if I had stayed one grade lower."

Last night, Mr Bill Brett, general secretary of the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists said: "Unless the situation is addressed people key people will leave the service and top calibre recruits will not enter."

Mr Leslie Christie, general secretary of the National Union of Public and Civil Servants said: "Overwhelmingly, there is a sense that people are not being treated fairly."

Treasury ministers are particularly worried about the loss of senior Treasury, Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise staff. They would welcome some move towards the closer comparison of civil service and private sector pay, which would result in more money for tax inspectors but less for inspectors of schools.

Cow madness search in cattle markets



Midwinter madness: Mr Matt Shepherd ruminates on his fruitless search for animals sick with bovine spongiform encephalopathy in the market at Thirsk.

By Peter Davenport

In the maze of pens holding cattle at the Thirsk auction market in North Yorkshire, Mr Matt Shepherd, Ministry of Agriculture veterinary surgeon, is making a spot check for any animals showing signs of bovine spongiform encephalopathy when he is confronted by a farmer who said: "Answer me this, veterinary: can it be spread to humans? Will you still go on eating meat despite all this fuss?"

Mr Shepherd, one of six ministry vets checking the 20 markets and 38 abattoirs in North Yorkshire, does not hesitate. "I am still eating meat and so are my family. There is no evidence at all that BSE can spread from animals to humans. Everything that can possibly be done to stop infected animals getting into the food chain is being done."

The work of Mr Shepherd and his colleagues is one part of the campaign against a disease that seems to attack cows at random, is still little understood and, according to many of those within the industry, is irrationally feared. Last week, however, the Government, which insists that there

is no evidence that people can contract BSE, announced a £12 million research programme into the disease and *Nature*, the scientific journal, said earlier this week that the "chilling" question of whether humans are at risk by consuming meat from infected cattle must be answered.

West Germany has imposed an import ban on British beef, raising threats to the multi-million pound export trade, but a report prepared for

Answer me this: can it be spread to humans? And will you still eat it?

The European Community veterinary committee claims that BSE is not a danger to health. It is against this background, fuelled by the emotive name for the condition as "mad cow disease", that Mr Shepherd and his colleagues are working.

At the market in Thirsk Mr Shepherd wanders along the rows of pens holding several hundred cattle. He is looking for the signs that an animal may be suffering from the

disease; twitching ears, muzzle-licking or reacting nervously and unpredictably to a touch or a hand-clap. Yesterday there were none, a confirmation that most of the cases of BSE are first spotted on the farm.

Earlier Mr Shepherd had called at an abattoir in Skipton to check on animals there under new procedures, brought in specifically because of BSE, which allows ministry vets to make unannounced inspections of cattle before slaughter. He entered the pens holding four Friesian cattle bought at markets in Preston and Pannal, near Harrogate, the day before, waving his arms up and down to see if the cows display any unusual reaction. Again all was well.

The first cases of BSE were identified in 1986 and it became a notifiable disease two years later. Since then 9,000 cattle have been destroyed out of a national herd of four million; in the northern region there have been 578 positive cases out of a cattle population of 1.6 million compared with about 4,000 in the South-west, the worst affected area.

According to Mr James Seed, the northern regional veterinary officer,

all evidence points to the disease, which causes a progressive degeneration of a cow's brain, having been spread by the use of sheep brain, infected with the similar disease, scrapie, in protein feed, in a procedure which is now banned.

Research is under way to try and understand more about the disease, how it is spread and why it affects some cows and not others.

As part of the investigation the ministry is monitoring the development of almost 700 calves at experimental husbandry farms around Britain. They have been purchased in pairs from farms, one calf whose mother had been found to be infected with BSE and the other from a healthy parent and their growth will be closely watched over the years for any signs of BSE.

Scientists at the ministry's Central Veterinary Laboratories at Weybridge in Surrey have, he says, produced a computer projection which shows the number of cases of BSE reaching a plateau through to 1997 when they will begin to fall dramatically. "By the end of this century we will have seen the last of it," Mr Seed said.

Ford lays off 8,000 as strike effects bite

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

More than 8,000 Ford production workers were laid off yesterday as key craftsmen refused to end their unofficial strike at the Halewood plant on Merseyside, raising company losses to more than £100 million.

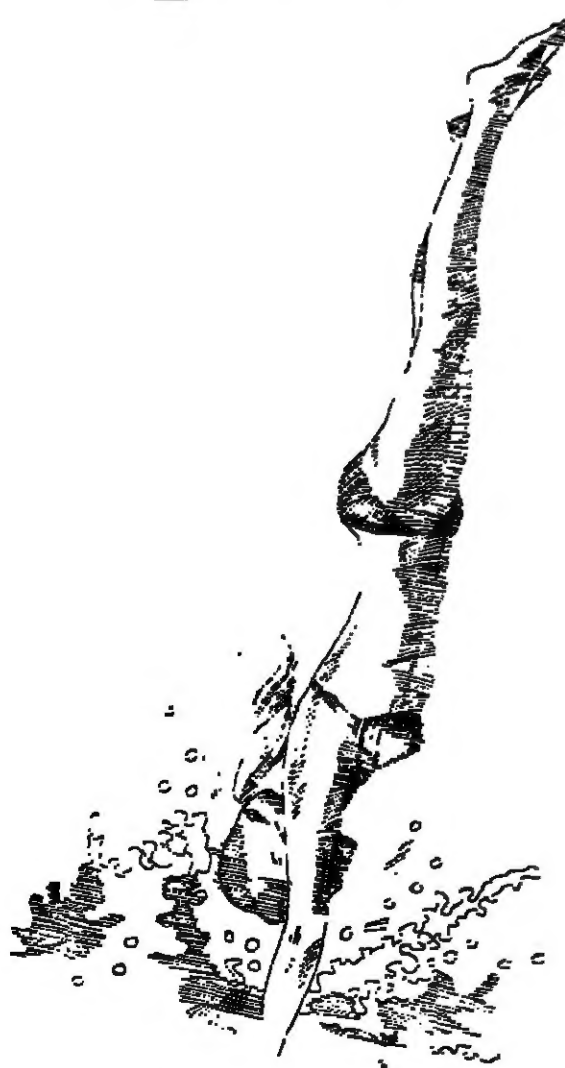
While the rest of the company's manual workers waited for the crucial strike ballot over pay next week, skilled workers disrupted Halewood for the fifth day running.

Wildcat action is now estimated to have cost the company up to £110 million in lost output. Halewood has suffered the worst, with 400

craftsmen on strike all week, causing the layoff of 6,000 other workers. However, they were joined yesterday by 150 maintenance men in the transmission section, forcing Ford to send home another 2,000 assembly line staff.

Both groups are understood to be holding mass meetings at the weekend to decide whether to carry on with their strikes. The results of the ballot over Ford's final offer of a two-year deal, worth 10.2 per cent in the first year and 8 per cent in the second, should be known by Thursday.

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Ex-pilot claims £1m

Navy to be sued over ski fall

By David Sapsted

A £1 million claim for compensation against the Ministry of Defence is to be made on behalf of a helicopter pilot who was paralysed from the shoulders down after being injured in trials in Austria for the Royal Navy ski team.

The case will be one of the first to challenge the secrecy of MoD inquiries into deaths and injuries involving service personnel, after a ruling by a High Court judge on Thursday which rejected the traditional justification for suppressing publication of all board of inquiry reports into military accidents.

Lawyers representing Lieutenant Trevor Jones had issued a writ against the MoD alleging negligence, but did not proceed until now because the ministry refused to disclose its accident report on the ground that it contained technical details and classified information.

"Until now, there has been a deliberate attempt to prevent us getting the full facts by the MoD which is hiding behind the force of national security in respect of a skiing accident," Mr Douglas Stewart, senior partner in the London firm, Stewarts, said.

The solicitors, who also brought the action which resulted in Mr Justice Popplewell's ruling on Thursday, said they planned to press ahead immediately with Lieutenant Jones's claim of negligence in the expectation the ministry would be forced to produce its

report. Lieutenant Jones, aged 28, lives in south Wales in a home which his mother has had to pay to be specially converted. He has a naval pension but the family spoke yesterday of the huge cost of looking after him, including 24-hour nursing at £20,000 a year.

His brother, Mr Rod Jones, said: "It has been a struggle financially but we have been unable to press ahead with a claim against the ministry because it has refused to release the report into what happened. Now we hope the result of the test case will force the ministry to release it in court."

"Trevor is going to have to receive care for the rest of his life. The cost of housing someone with such an extensive disability is enormous. More than that, though, we want Trevor to be able to afford to have some fun in his life."

Mr Jones, a helicopter pilot who rescued Mr Richard Branson and Mr Per Lindstrand when their transatlantic balloon crashed into the sea five years ago, suffered spinal injuries when he hit a road while practising with the Navy ski squad at Payer, Austria, in January, 1988.

Stewarts issued a writ for damages, claiming negligence by the MoD for poor supervision, poor design and inadequate supervision on the grand saloon course.

A ministry spokeswoman said that although the words "classified information" were used to justify non-publication of the report, the real reason was that all board of inquiry reports were confidential to protect individuals giving evidence.

The MoD said it fears that, if servicemen knew the reports would be published, they would be reluctant to give evidence. That could prevent the ministry introducing changes to protect service personnel.

A summary of the report's findings had been sent to Lieutenant Jones's solicitors, the spokeswoman said, but Mr Stewart maintained that that was an inadequate basis for a claim for damages which would require detailed analysis of the events.



Lt Trevor Jones: Paralysed by fall from shoulders down

Computer peril of year 2000

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

Banks, universities and industry could experience chaos and billions of pounds of bills because computers cannot face the year 2000.

Experts have realized that many computer programmes were never designed to see in the new millennium with functions firmly rooted in the 20th century.

Consequently the clocks which control much of a computer's functions, including staff pay rolls, automatic payments, the printing of reports and letters, will be thrown into disarray unless urgent and costly action is taken.

Some will automatically switch their dates back to 1900, others cannot be predicted.

The problem is being compared to cheque book users who fail to register the new year, but this, however, is on a grander and potentially highly disruptive scale.

"It is as massive a change as

decimalization," according to Mr Malcolm Munro of the Centre for Software Maintenance at Durham University.

Even recently written programmes including those to administer the community charge are unlikely to be unscathed, experts claim.

Although computers can store millions of bytes of information, software writers have habitually referred to years by the last two digits.

Clearly the last two digits at the start of a new century are indistinguishable from those 100 years earlier.

US Army studies indicate that it costs 10 times as much to rewrite or change a line of code as it does to write, *Computer Weekly* reports.

One British computer company has already spent £115,000 making the necessary changes to cope with the new century.

Worst affected are likely to be users of an old computer language called Cobol, which

include banks and financial institutions. The Banks of Scotland and England, who are responsible for the auditing and quality of financial institutions' software, are so concerned about the problem awareness campaign urging users to have strategies in place by 1995.

Mr Munro said: "The computer industry has to start worrying about this now."

"It is going to be expensive, simply because code that has been in place for 10 years is as massive a change as decimalization."

His fears are echoed by Mr Terry Madgwick, project services manager for Surrey County Council.

"A lot of the problems have been caused by the attitude of software developers thinking changes are needed," he said.

"Everyone must be up to speed on this by 1995 at the latest."

Hungarian leaders accused of spying on opposition

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

Members of the Hungarian Government and the ruling Hungarian Socialist Party regularly received secret surveillance reports on the activities and election strategy of opposition parties from the State Security Service of the Interior Ministry, according to a member of the service.

The disclosure, by Major Jozsef Vegvari, who yesterday revealed himself as the man who leaked the documents in the so-called Danubegate scandal, widens the scope of the bugging affair by implicating senior government and party members in the controversial Interior Ministry monitoring activities, which have been denounced as illegal and a violation of the new Constitution by opposition parties.

Since the scandal broke two weeks ago, the identity of Major Vegvari had been kept secret, and only certain documents detailing the bugging operation were given to the press in an effort to force the resignation of Mr Istvan Horvath, the Interior Minister, and a reorganization of the State Security Service to place it under strict controls.

But as Mr Horvath has refused to voluntarily step down, Major Vegvari was presented to journalists in a

video interview and later at a news conference where he revealed a widespread and intricate network of covert intelligence-gathering methods which included tapping telephones, intercepting private post, bugging flats and having ministry moles pose as opposition party members.

The video showed a room, said to be at the Interior Ministry headquarters, where the information was collected. It also showed documents, stamped "strictly secret", which were dated as recently as December 30, and listed those who attended opposition party meetings and election strategy sessions.

Major Vegvari said the information was discussed at Cabinet meetings and passed on to members of the Socialist Party who, he claimed, wanted to use the information to damage the opposition in the multi-party elections set for March 25.

"The party in power is fighting the last battle to keep as many people in power as possible," Major Vegvari said. Targets of the bugging included leading opposition figures from a wide range of parties, but no members of the Socialist Party. Major Vegvari said he could not reveal, at present, the names of those



Budapest walkabout: President Mitterrand of France, who is on an official visit to Hungary, raising his hat to passers-by in the centre of the capital yesterday.

who had received the intelligence reports. Mr Miklos Nemeth, the Prime Minister, Mr Horvath and leaders of the Socialist Party, including Mr Imre Pozsgay, the Minister of State,

have all denied knowledge of the surveillance activities. The Government last week ordered a ban on all covert methods by the Secret Service. However, Major Vegvari said such activities were con-

tinuing. He painted a menacing picture of the Security Service, where he has worked for 25 years, saying it was rife with nepotism and about half of the 250 employees were in some way related to members

of the Socialist Party or its predecessor, the Hungarian Socialist Workers (communist) Party. He also charged that the service is continuing to destroy documents related to the

and burned at secret locations in the countryside, Major Vegvari claimed.

It appears that Major Vegvari was moved by his conscience to leak the information because he felt that what he was doing violated the new democratic spirit in Hungary. "Political pluralism was legalized but nobody changed our rules and regulations," he told journalists.

Appearing tense and admitting that he feared for the safety of his family, Major Vegvari said he might be accused of treason, branded as a traitor and be court-martialed, but he could not keep silent any longer about the "lies and illegal activities carried out on behalf of the party in power." He showed a written message found in a lift at the Interior Ministry which threatened that the person found to have leaked the documents will "die like a rat."

The Danubegate revelations have clearly shaken public confidence in the Government and have aroused fears that the election, the first free poll in Hungary in more than 40 years, cannot be fought fairly as long as remnants of the old communist regime, including Mr Horvath, still hold sensitive positions of power.

A free work of art for every reader.

This Sunday sees the launch of the 1990 Guide to the Arts, published by The Sunday Correspondent in association with the Arts Council. In four absorbing weekly parts, the Guide covers everything from opera to jazz, drama to dance, painted pictures to moving pictures. It includes profiles, interviews and exclusive ticket offers, and has a comprehensive calendar of all the major European arts events. Also this week, Stephen Hawking, author of the best-seller "A Brief History of Time", meets Firdaus Kanga, their conversation given added poignancy by the fact that both men are wheelchair-bound.



THE SUNDAY
CORRESPONDENT
TOMORROW'S SUNDAY

Communists in Yugoslavia try to repair image

From Dena Trevisan and John Holland, Belgrade

The Yugoslav Central Committee met yesterday in last minute attempts to reconcile the feuding national factions and smooth the way to the Congress which opens today, amid deep divisions between the national communist parties and public indifference.

The Congress was first conceived by the Serbs at a time when Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, was sure that his centralist ideas would secure a majority of the delegates.

The Congress was intended to inject new blood into the party, which had been losing ground and found itself at the tail end of the reform trends throughout Eastern Europe.

A Yugoslav intellectual said that the party had become totally irrelevant, while the opposition parties were gaining in strength throughout the country.

Even Serbia, where pluralism has been until recently frowned upon, is now in the throes of rapid change. Mr Milosevic, until recently unchallenged, appears to be losing much of his former popularity, and the communist party is shedding much of its earlier appeal as a rallying point of the nation.

A former Yugoslav Communist said: "The Congress will not be able to save the Communist Party, just as the Communist Party can no longer save the country."

The party has long ceased to

be a cohesive force, while opposition groups which have now entered the political scene are winning support.

From timid beginnings, they are becoming organized. In Slovenia, all alternative parties have formed a coalition bloc and are intent on taking over the power from the Communists in the elections which are due in April.

The Slovene Communists are clearly feeling the pressure from the opposition and will run in the next election under a new name as Party of the Democratic Renewal.

The word communism is no longer an attractive marketing item, but the change of name in Slovenia also has deeper meaning as the Slovene communists are distancing themselves from Marxism. They are assuming an image of social democracy, intent on attracting votes before the new Social Democratic Party, which was founded there recently, overtakes them.

In Serbia, several opposition parties have been founded in recent weeks. However, a radically anti-Communist party which preaches extreme nationalism, seems to be gathering support.

In Croatia in less than a year, the opposition parties won more than 100,000 members, while as many Communists have quit the Yugoslav Communist Party in that time.

Leading article, page 13

Mongolia plans free elections

From Anne McElvey, East Berlin

The isolated Asian republic of Mongolia, the oldest socialist country in the world after the Soviet Union, is considering holding free elections in an attempt to curb growing dissent, ADN, the East German news agency, reported yesterday.

In a report from Ulan Bator, the capital, the agency said that a draft law put forward by a group of deputies in the Hural, the Mongolian Parliament, would extend the right of candidature to non-Communists for the first time in the country's history.

It provides for trade unionists and other state groups to stand for Parliament, although ADN did not say whether this included the country's small opposition movement.

"The authors want to bring the running of the state closer to the people and make it more accountable," said Hugo Krippein, ADN's Mongolian correspondent. It also aims to reduce the role of the Mongolian Communist Party which is drifting away from reformist Moscow.

Ninety-five per cent of seats in the Parliament are occupied by the Communists and the other five need a Communist mandate as a prerequisite of their presence there. Only 10 per cent of the electorate are members of the Communist Party.

The unexpected suggestion of reform seems to be a response to recent demonstrations in Ulan Bator, organized by the Mongolian Democratic Union, a fledgling opposition

group including both workers and intellectuals.

Five thousand protesters took to the streets last Sunday to demonstrate against the Stalinist legacy in Mongolian affairs. The Government has since decreed that all demonstrations are subject to its prior approval and are not allowed to take place in the centre of town.

The authors of the proposed law support the setting up of a second parliament, named "the small state Hural", to monitor the work of the main parliamentary body. It also wants deputies renamed as "the envoys of the people" or "delegates of the people". ADN said the deputies concerned were trying to find local terms for "mandate" and "statute" as the vocabulary of democracy is not yet represented in the Mongolian language.

The Government has already made one main concession to the opposition's demands by removing two central squares in the capital, but is insisting that the third and main statue of the dictator should remain.

Ulan, the Communist Party newspaper, has criticized the Mongolian Democratic Union, accusing it of following Western and Eastern European ideas unsuitable for Mongolia. The opposition is also demanding the prosecution of the former dictator, who ruled the country for 40 years before he was removed in 1984.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Bitter conflict between republics

Armenian village waits for Muslim onslaught

From Robin Lodge, Yerashkavan, Soviet Union

Rifle fire rang out across the Armenian-Azerbaijani border yesterday, while a small Armenian village prepared to ward off attacks by Azerbaijani militants massed in near by mountains.

In Yerashkavan, hemmed in on two sides by the Turkish frontier and the border with Azerbaijan's province Nakhichevan, hundreds of Armenian volunteers with ageing shotguns and cartridge belts slung across their chests, stood around casually, making no attempt to return fire.

"They have got automatics, machine-guns and mortars while we just have our hunting guns - useless at this range," Mr Rustan Alexanyan said.

On Thursday, two local men were killed in two hours of fighting.

Behind Mr Alexanyan, three huge earthmoving trucks manoeuvred into position, their load carriers raised vertically as a shield.

"It is foggy now but yesterday we could see them clearly, swarming like ants over the mountainside all dressed in white camouflage against the snow," Mr Alexanyan said.

Yerashkavan has been thrown into the front line of a brutal conflict that has erupted over the last week between mainly Christian Armenians and predominantly Muslim Azerbaijanis.

Thousands of troops have been sent in to restore order, but fighting continues.

The clashes on Thursday centred around two wineries on either side of the border. The first victim was Mr Rubik Bazikyan, an accountant in the Armenian plant, shot through the chest and abdomen by a sniper.

Mr Gevork Zenalyan, the second man, was killed when interior ministry troops, apparently believing they were under attack, fired on a group of men approaching their village. Armenians say the men went there to summon the troops for help.

Lieutenant Konstantin Belomysov, an interior ministry officer who arrived at the scene after the shooting, denied that the troops had fired on the people.

"There was a conflict yesterday, but the soldiers did not shoot at anyone - only into

the air," he said. Asked how he accounted for a crimson pool of blood, frozen in the snow just outside the building commandeered by the troops, he said: "It may be blood, but perhaps it's paint. Let's go and take a look." Dipping a finger into the sticky congealing mess, he raised it to his face, sniffed and looked aghast.

Doctors at a hospital in Ararat, some nine miles from Yerashkavan, confirmed that the sample taken from the pool was human blood.

In the same hospital, two of the wounded were being treated for bullet wounds. Each told the same story. "I live in Ararat, but when we heard the shooting we all went to Yerashkavan with our guns. The Azerbaijanis were shooting from the mountains. I was near the winery when I was wounded," Mr Arzur Avakyan, aged 23, recounted.

The chief surgeon, Mr Vagarshak Abrahanyan, said he had operated on one of them on Thursday night to remove shrapnel from his thigh and groin.

The other wounded man, Mr Armen Magakyan, aged

30, blood seeping from his bandaged right leg, said he thought about 60 Azerbaijanis armed with automatic rifles had taken part in the attack. He said the closest they had come was about 150 yards. "I heard this huge explosion near me and then I found myself here," he said.

There was no sign of troops on the road between the Armenian capital Yerevan and the Nakhichevan border. In Yerashkavan, the only visible troops were guarding their billet.

They levelled their Kalashnikovs and took aim as journalists approached.

"We came here yesterday because of the difficult situation on the border," Lieutenant Belomysov said.

"Some of our people have now gone back, because the situation is under control."

After a fresh burst of fire around the hill, he conceded that it was not completely under control. "But they are only warning shots, fired into the air," he said. "There was no attack on the village."

(Reuters)
Let Mailings go, page 10



Airlift to safety: An elderly woman being helped out of an aircraft which had ferried refugees from Azerbaijan to Armenia.

East Europeans take own line at arms talks

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

East European governments, determined to test their strength against their much harassed Soviet colleagues and to break Moscow's established grip on all defence and security matters, have transformed the atmosphere at the 23-nation Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna.

"The CFE talks used to be the 16 Nato countries and the Soviet General Staff, with the rest of Eastern Europe tagging along, now it's very much 23 countries involved," one senior Western source said.

The growing independence of Moscow's Warsaw Pact allies, and the different views now being expressed is not expected to hinder progress at the talks.

Everyone, including the Soviet Union, has had to adjust to the changing times. But, one senior Western source said, the Czechoslovaks, Poles and Hungarians were now looking on the talks as a way of accelerating the withdrawal of Soviet troops from their countries.

The East Germans, however, have not yet broken free from the Soviet positions at the talks and tend to keep a low profile, and Romania and Bulgaria, neither of which has Soviet troops stationed on its territory, also kept in the background, leaving all the running to the Czechoslovaks, Poles and Hungarians.

One of the reasons for the new timetables for Soviet withdrawals from these countries is that so far the troop cuts from Eastern Europe, under President Gorbachev's unilateral reductions announced in December, 1988, have been fairly modest:

● In Hungary, until last year, the Soviet military presence consisted of 65,000 troops, about 1,250 tanks, 500 heavy guns and 240 aircraft, all in a high state of combat readiness. So far about 10,000 troops and 450 tanks have been withdrawn.

● In Czechoslovakia, until May last year, there were 75,000 Soviet troops, 1,500 tanks, 650 artillery pieces and 120 combat aircraft, including 120 helicopters. Only about 1,500 troops have been with-

drawn, as well as nearly 200 tanks. Until Bucharest said all Soviet troops were to leave by the end of this year, Moscow's plan had been to remove 5,300 troops and 708 tanks by 1990.

● In Poland, of the 40,000 Soviet troops stationed there, about 3,500 have now gone. About 90 of the 650 Soviet tanks have also been withdrawn. Moscow keeps a high proportion of communication, engineering and other support units in the country because the main function of

the Soviet military in Poland is to support the 17 remaining divisions in East Germany.

Bringing the West up to date with President Gorbachev's unilateral cuts, which are aimed at reducing the Soviet armed forces by 500,000, including 50,000 from Eastern Europe, General Mikhail Moiseyev, Chief of the Soviet General Staff, told the 35-nation seminar on military doctrine in Vienna this week that, since January 1 this year, 265,000 men and officers had

been disbanded. The remaining cuts are to be completed by December.

At the CFE talks, now in their fifth round, the Soviet Union has made it clear that it is anxious for an agreement by the end of this year. Yet the Soviet team began the new round a week ago by adopting a pretty uncompromising position.

The problem being addressed at the moment is tanks. The Soviet team, so far without objection from the

other Warsaw Pact countries, is insisting that the ceiling of 20,000 main battle tanks for each alliance in Europe must include everything that weighs 13 tonnes or more. Nato says a main battle tank should be 20 tonnes at least.

In effect, the Soviet Union is trying to include within the tank-counting rules Nato's more heavily armed combat fighting vehicles, which they classify as light tanks. Nato, however, lists these under a separate heading as armoured combat vehicles.

But because the proposed ceiling for this category is higher - recently raised by Nato from 28,000 to 30,000 for each alliance - the Western combat vehicles which the Soviet Union is desperately anxious to see disbanded, such as the British Warrior, are likely to survive the CFE cuts.

A British diplomatic source said: "What worries the Soviet Union is that it's going to have to destroy about 30,000 tanks to reach the 20,000 limit. Nato will have to destroy only 2,000. They don't think that's fair. So if they can enlarge the scope for the tank definition, Nato would have to destroy more. We will resist this approach."

In Warsaw yesterday the Government said that Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, was expressing his own opinion when he called on the Soviet Union to remove all its troops from the country by the end of the year. "We are not opening this issue now," a spokesman told a press conference in Warsaw. Mr Walesa made the demand in talks with Mr Vladimir Brovnikov, the Soviet Ambassador to Warsaw, on Thursday.

Bleak future for the slagheap city

From Anne McElvoy, Bitterfeld, East Germany

Bitterfeld in Saxony announces itself from the train with an unending vista of coal heaps and smokestacks. This is just as well for the first-time visitor as it is impossible to read the station sign covered in thick grime.

The station cleaner shrugs. No matter how often he cleans it, he says, the dirt comes back straight away. In East Germany the town is a byword for pollution and neglect. It is encircled by a belt of heavy industry with chimneys and slag heaps encroaching up to a few yards from the residents' front doors.

Two-thirds of the 130,000 residents work in the chemical plant, power station or coal mines which dominate the town. The majority of factories were built before the war and much of the machinery in them dates back to the 1920s.

The stench of chemicals, coal dust and diesel hits you at the first intake of breath. Half an hour of walking in the town left me breathless. The old brick houses are caked in black soot and the dust lies so thick on the streets that the children draw patterns in it.

They are wan-looking, prone to coughs and bronchial infections and perform less well than similarly aged children in cleaner parts of the country, says Dr Reiner Kleber, who leaves a crowded waiting room at a factory surgery to see me - "because publicity is our only hope".

His real job is surgeon at the local hospital, but he puts in extra hours as a factory doctor because the previous incumbent left the country when the

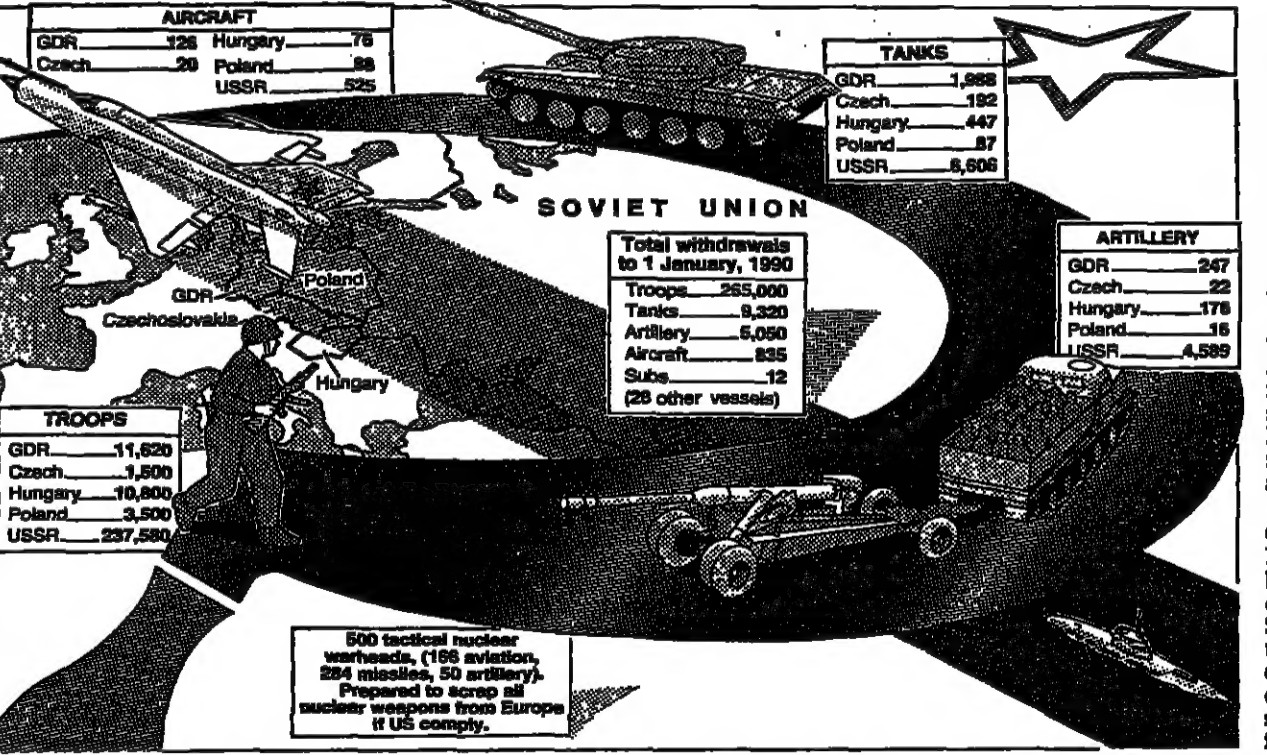
border opened. He has campaigned for several years for a stop to coal mining which takes place a few yards away from a housing estate and he is convinced that excessive quantities of quartz, which causes pneumoconiosis and other bronchial irritations, are contained in the dust.

Last year a team of scientists from the Ministry of Heavy Industry turned up to measure pollution levels. "We were never informed of the results," says Dr Kleber, who also wants to open research into the high incidence of cancerous tumours among young people in the region.

The West German news magazine *Der Spiegel* carried out its own research earlier this month and found dioxin and other poisonous chemicals in the water which is drained from factories into the Elbe via open channels. The magazine concluded that Bitterfeld was "the most polluted town in Europe".

The stench permeates the office of Herr Hans Eckhard Kirsch, the deputy chief clerk, who has conveniently left the communist party and thus can no longer be forced by the outraged townspeople to account for his party's negligence in Bitterfeld.

The Government of Herr Hans Modrow, whose Environment Minister resigned last week, has set up a commission to decide Bitterfeld's future. Even the factory directors admit that millions of marks of investment and mass rationalization will be necessary to secure its existence in a market economy.



Just over a year since President Gorbachev announced his plan to make large unilateral cuts in the Soviet armed forces, reductions in both troops and armaments have been continuing throughout the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Church controversy

Romanian patriarch resigns

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

In an effort to regain credibility for the Romanian Orthodox Church, badly damaged by suspicion of collaboration with the communist regime of Nicolae Ceausescu, its leader, Patriarch Teoctist, yesterday stood down, citing reasons of ill health and old age.

Few Romanians have any doubts that the patriarch's retirement was prompted by younger members of the church, embarrassed by the damaging compact which he made with the old regime during his three years as leader.

Father Casian Craciun, the official spokesman, told reporters that the Church, which accounts for some 95 per cent of Romania's Christians - would be run by an ad hoc coalition of three metropolitan and two bishops until elections for a new patriarch.

Patriarch Teoctist, aged 75, was regarded by many Romanians to have compromised too much with the communist dictatorship to stay in office for long.

Popular anger was expressed at reports that the Church had sent an effusive telegram of support for the dictator, published only two days after the massacre at Timisoara.

no confidence in us," Father Casian admitted. "There are rumours. One of them is that we collaborated with the old regime. And it is true... we just could not take it any more." The people of Romania, Father Casian, said "did the same thing; for the moment, nobody is guilty and nobody is innocent."

Now, with the revolution, "the church has come out of the catacombs", Father Casian said. "Before, we always had to whisper. I know a number of priests who did not dare preach. There were informers among the congregation and some of them used microphones."

Since the revolution, priests have been allowed into Romania's crowded orphanages for the first time to baptise their children there. "Under Ceausescu, we were never allowed to set foot in any public institution like that."

In the immediate aftermath of the revolution, the patriarch himself argued that the Church, under an authoritarian dictator, was powerless. "We lived in constant fear," he said. "We were afraid that even this cathedral (the Bucharest basilica) would be demolished. When I was told of the plans to rip up our basilica, I kept silent, but at the same time, consolidated

and rebuilt everything. That was how we faced the tyranny."

Father Casian said that leaders were meeting in Bucharest to draw up new guidelines for the church.

The other churches in Romania were torn between compromise and resistance. Bishop Laszlo Papp, the Protestant Bishop from Oradea - who ordered the removal of the Rev Laszlo Takacs, the dissident pastor, and thus provoked the Timisoara unrest - has fled the country and Bishop Gyula Nagy, the Prot-

estant Bishop of Cluj accused of being a member of the Securitate, has resigned.

A campaign has also begun to force the resignation of Rabbi Moses Rosen, the Chief Rabbi of Romania and claims that he was sent as an emissary for the Ceausescu regime on many delicate missions around the world. They also allege that he was privy to the campaign to hound the true Chief Rabbi, Dr Alexandre Safran, out of Romania.

● The first detailed count of those shot dead in Timisoara since the Romanian uprising began there lists just 90 dead. The French daily newspaper *Liberation* quoting a local journal, *Revue des Banats*, said 71 of these have been identified and another 33 people are still missing.

Liberation also reports that the "traces of torture" on corpses found in a mass grave on the outskirts of the city on December 26 were actually routine post-mortem incisions.

The chief medical officer of Timisoara's main hospital said he registered some 250 "unnatural" deaths during the ten days from the start of the uprising. Dr Stephan Eggeles believes that the final toll from the fighting in the city may have been between 400 and 600.



Patriarch Teoctist: Made damaging pact with state.

Soviet crisis talks at Elysée

From Philip Jacobson, Paris, and Peter Guilford, Brussels

Against the bloody background of the crisis in the Transcaucasus, Mrs Thatcher will today meet President Mitterrand of France for what is described as a "working lunch" in the Elysée Palace. Although there is no formal agenda for this flying visit - which will last about three hours - the two leaders are expected to concentrate on the hectic pace of recent events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

According to diplomatic sources here, the talks will primarily concern the tricky issue of the European Community's response to the drama unfolding in the East.

Since Mitterrand has just returned from an official visit

to Hungary and this week has also seen the first working session in Paris of the EC group considering the establishment of a special EC bank to help fund development in the East, the two leaders should have plenty to keep the conversation going.

It may well be that Mrs Thatcher will turn her attention to the speech by Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, in the French capital last Wednesday. Herr Kohl did not miss the chance to repeat his now-familiar argument that the EC should move swiftly towards achieving greater institutional integration.

European Community foreign ministers fly to Dublin

for urgent discussion on Eastern Europe this evening and will discuss throwing new lifelines to those Eastern countries struggling to emerge from economic and political bankruptcy, including more emergency food for Poland and Hungary.

The meeting in Dublin Castle, which the 12 national ambassadors to the EC will also attend, will give several of the ministers and the European Commission a first chance to compare notes on their own recent visits to the Eastern bloc, with the hope of forming a uniform strategy which respects the different needs of each emerging democracy.

Unrest in the Soviet republics, which could influence the EC's strategy on Eastern Europe, according to a commission spokesman, will also be discussed.

A motion by the centre right in the European Parliament to set up a "European Democracy Fund" enabling opposition groups fighting elections in the East to buy basic campaign equipment has been overturned by the powerful Socialists.

M Jean-Pierre Cot, the Socialists' leader, said it could help finance extremist right-wing parties, while Christian and Democratic and Conservative MEPs who proposed the resolution, argued such funds are vital to ensure fair elections in Eastern Europe.

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Yeltsin attacks champagne lifestyle

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Mr Boris Yeltsin, the outspoken reformist member of the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies, has added spice to his attack on President Gorbachev by accusing him of leading a champagne lifestyle that Mrs Thatcher and other Western leaders dare not enjoy, and by boasting that he could give the Soviet leader a run for his money in a presidential race.

"Thatcher, who is the Prime Minister of a capitalist country, is leading a much more austere lifestyle than Gorbachev, the head of a socialist state," Mr Yeltsin told Japan's *Mainichi* newspaper.

"Although 48 million Soviet citizens are living below the lowest standard of living, the leaders are indulging in the most unnecessary luxuries."

"For example, when Mrs Thatcher visits a foreign country, she rides in the same plane that ordinary citizens use, but Gorbachev can't do that."

While Thatcher rides in a car with two other people, Gorbachev uses a procession of four luxury cars plus an escort.

"Mrs Thatcher orders food herself and pays for it herself. In our country, the KGB delivers food to the leaders free of charge."

On his prospects of becoming leader, he said: "If there were a presidential election, I would have a chance. Unless Gorbachev changes his own stance, the situation is not

favourable for him." And, of his reported dislike of Mrs Raisa Gorbachev, he said: "It absolutely is not a personal confrontation. I just criticized Gorbachev for taking his wife on domestic trips for public business. International trips involve protocol, so I think wives are necessary. But, at least in the case of domestic trips, the citizens do not understand why the wife should go along. I have told Gorbachev this directly."

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

Melbourne

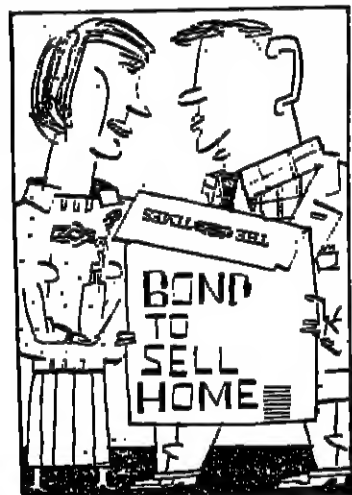
Here is a message for the doormen, ticket checkers and officials of Wimbledon, Lord's, the Stewards Enclosure at Henley and the Royal Enclosure at Ascot. You are not really trying at all. If you think you are good, then take a look at the great MCG, or Melbourne Cricket Ground. During the Australia-Pakistan Test match this week, they threw out the man who has every chance of being prime minister of Australia in a few months' time, Andrew Peacock, leader of the opposition Liberal Party. To give this magnificent effort even more weight, they threw him out in full knowledge of his identity. He just didn't have the right ticket, did he?

Dress, too, is important at the MCG. In the pavilion, it is all ties and jackets, just as it is at Lord's. The code for the members' enclosure is a little more complex: "Men wearing shorts must also wear shoes and socks, while the following are not permitted: shirts without collars, brief shorts, beachwear, rubber thongs, dilapidated shoes, bare tops, bare midriff, and stripping down to sunbath after arrival." No doubt they will adopt these regulations for the Warner Stand next season.

The bizarre part of the Melbourne Test was its ghostly quality. It was a most intriguing match, close, exciting, violent, hotly contested. What more could anyone want? But hardly anybody came. Fewer than 9,000 showed up for the tense fourth day; the aggregate for the five days was only 61,537, and the place holds 100,000. Yet a floodlit one-dayer between Australia and Sri Lanka attracted 45,000. I asked Tony Greig, the former England captain turned Australian television pundit, what he thought about floodlit cricket: "I love it," he said. "Some people think it has gone too far, but I'd go further. The one-day game now subsidizes Test cricket. You cannot impose on a society something it doesn't want. It's like Real Tennis: I bet plenty of kings would not approve of tennis the way it is today."

Meanwhile, the Australian Open tennis championships are carrying on at Flinders Park just across the railway line from the MCG. The most shocking news — apart from the fact that a Brit, Sarah Loomore, has gone beyond the second round — is that Ivan Lendl has a new hat, a kind of French Foreign Legion job. It is a funny hat, but of course, Ivan is rather serious about it. "I think the tournament is about winning matches and doing your job, and the hat does its job. If I could do my job as well as the hat does, I would be fine."

BARRY FANTONI



'I'll make him an offer, providing he leaves the paintings on the walls'

I wonder if Geoffrey Boycott is going to become the greatest cricket coach in history. Certainly few people have given as much thought to the art and science of batting, and the old boy now seems to have set his traditional secrecy aside. He has helped with the England team and, impartially enough, he has helped Dean Jones to bat so well for Australia. "I told Jones that if he had my brains and his ability he would make a batsman," Boycott said. "I told him he got himself out more often than the bowlers did, and that's criminal." It won't be long before a Boycott old boy network dominates world cricket — well, if that ever happens, it will certainly raise the standards.

If you think the Commonwealth Games, which start in Auckland next weekend, have their political troubles, take a look at the Pan-American Games of next year. They will be held in Cuba. Already they have dropped one sport, ninepin bowling of all things, because they cannot get the equipment from the US. This is not the only problem to spring from the economic sanctions first imposed against Cuba in the Sixties. The Games people cannot get drug test equipment from the States either, and where would modern sport be without that? Furthermore, as things stand, coverage by the American TV network ABC is barred by law. However, the US is likely to have the largest contingent of athletes, apart from the host nation. I am sure there is logic behind all this, but it eludes me at present.

As Armenians and Azerbaijanis plunge into national conflict, some Americans are still preoccupied with the Soviet threat. A writer in the *Los Angeles Times* this week warns his readers not to be fooled by the reports coming from the Soviet Union. The apparent relaxation of the Kremlin's grip is just a Machiavellian ploy, designed to get the West to drop its guard, so that the communists can take over.

This school of thought also has a few adherents in Britain. Those who see things that way are likely to find confirmation of their view in the deployment of Soviet forces in Azerbaijan. "Look! The tanks are moving in! Nothing has changed!"

In reality, the tanks are not there to impose communism but to try to avert anarchy, by suppressing a local civil war. In that respect, Gorbachev's move in Azerbaijan may be compared to the British government's decision, in 1969, to deploy troops in Northern Ireland.

Those who hope that the deployment of Soviet forces in Azerbaijan will soon bring peace to the area are likely to find the analogy with Northern Ireland very discouraging. It suggests that the troops are likely to be still in Azerbaijan, trying to keep

Conor Cruise O'Brien on the religious threat facing Gorbachov

First set the Muslims free

the peace, 20 years from now. However, I don't think they will be. I think they will be gone within five years, perhaps sooner. Not because a solution will have been found but because they will have given up, in the face of a far larger and more daunting problem than that in Northern Ireland.

When the troops leave, the Soviet Union may be gone along with them. Boris Yeltsin, the Kremlin dissident, said this week that the Soviet Union "could destroy itself within as little as three months". And it is in the southern region, Azerbaijan and Armenia, that the process of violent dissolution is most advanced. I fear it is likely to continue there and spread to other regions.

One major factor in spreading the contagion is likely to be Islam. Westerners, and also the Soviet media, see the role of the troops sent to Azerbaijan as primarily to protect Armenians against Azerbaijani violence. But

Muslims will see the Soviet government as having thrown its weight behind a Christian aggressor against a Muslim people.

In an article on this page on Wednesday an Azerbaijani politician was quoted as saying: "We are always punished when we retaliate against Armenian oppression." When I read that "always" I began to wonder about the events of 1915, as they appear in our Western history books. Are we now to believe that it was the Armenians who massacred the oppressed Turks, and not the other way round? I rather doubt this, but I don't doubt that Muslims, in the Soviet Union today, see Armenians as the aggressors.

This means that any Muslims who die — whatever the provocation — at the hands of the Soviet forces will appear as martyrs, slaughtered because of their religion by the enemies of their religion. A fertile theme for sacred eloquence in any mosque

with a militant mullah. And the old non-militant mullahs, controlled and monitored from Moscow, will be a dying breed under the new conditions. The ground is being prepared for a jihad, in addition to the Soviet Union's other afflictions.

It may be thought that this is too dark a picture. At various times during the past three decades a Muslim insurrection has been prophesied, but it never came about, not even after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. But in those earlier periods and even up to the beginning of this year, there was always a conviction that Moscow would use overwhelming force against any ethnic or national group attempting secession. This year, with the assurance to the Baltic republics that force would be used against them, secession by every republic has become an option.

For Muslims, secession from an infidel policy, if it is possible, becomes a duty. It is contrary to

God's will that infidels should rule over Muslims. It should be the other way round. In the old days, under Stalin and his successors, public dissemination of that basic Islamic principle was not allowed. But the advent of Gorbachev and glasnost undermined the old system of control. Glasnost in the mosques moves readily towards jihad.

It might reasonably be asked why, if secession is allowed, people should need to resort to jihad. But such cold logic is not applicable to most real-life secession situations. Most of these include conflicts between neighbours, disputes over boundaries, violent passions over "sacred" and "inalienable" patches of territory. The dissolution of the Soviet Union, however the Kremlin tries to handle it, will be a messy and a bloody business.

Boris Yeltsin, who was very busy this week underpinning Gorbachev, in preparation for the coming elections to the Supreme Soviet, has been urging

the pouring on of more perestroika as a panacea. But perestroika, even if available, could not hold the Soviet Union together. The idea that economic advances promote inter-ethnic and other religious harmony is an illusion. The most prosperous of India's communities are the Sikhs of the Punjab, and these are also the most given to religious and political violence.

The Soviet Union — whether it retains that name or not — will probably be reduced to Russia proper along with the Ukraine and Byelorussia in some kind of federation, or confederation, of equal states. That core area, plus the Baltic republics and perhaps Georgia, has reasonable prospects. In much of the rest of the Soviet Union, life — especially for minorities — is likely to be worse than it was under communism, since anarchy is worse than communism.

Unfortunately, the attempt to avert anarchy by military means, under present conditions in the Soviet Union, is likely to accelerate the anarchy and spread it. Gorbachev should stop trying to save areas that cannot be saved, and should concentrate his energies on the core area. He is going to have his work cut out if he is to save Russia itself from reverting into barbarism.

Peter Brimelow

Socialism in new guise

New York

Last year Robert Heilbroner, author of the perennially best-selling economics survey, *The Worldly Philosophers*, began an article in *The New Yorker* with this ringing statement: "Less than 75 years after it officially began, the competition between capitalism and socialism is over. Capitalism has won."

Heilbroner's article attracted a lot of attention, not least because he himself, at 70, has long been one of the most prominent American socialist sympathizers. Of course, what he said has become common coin, particularly since Russia's empire in Eastern Europe began to disintegrate. As the State Department's Francis Fukuyama put it last autumn, in his even more sensational *National Interest* magazine article entitled "The End of History", there now appears to be no "viable systematic alternative" to the West's "pro-market, anti-statism" way of organizing society.

Even to those of us who are still (ahem) quite young, this is an astonishing turnaround. Well into the 1970s, most educated people would rattle off at the drop of a new government programme a fluent litany about how markets had worked in earlier times, but now the world was too complicated and needed co-ordination by the state. It was as if they had learned it at school — as indeed they usually had.

Even businessmen, with varying degrees of surliness, seemed to assume an implicit theory of history that ran from *laissez-faire* in the Garden of Eden to nationalization, planning and price control in the Gethsemane of Callaghan and Carter. Curiously, this was probably the exact reverse of the truth. The earliest known writing, the Code of Hammurabi, is largely a list of controlled prices.

Today, such faith apparently survives in its pristine form only in Southern Africa. "I think they all see that communism is the wave of the future," a young (white) South African financial journalist said of her colleagues two years ago in Johannesburg. She was surprised that I was surprised.

But if socialism is dead, why won't it lie down? The classical definition of socialism is the means of production, distribution and exchange. And at first glance, there is not a lot of it in the America of George Bush.

Recently, however, I took a look in *Forbes* at some other measures of the government's role. The picture was much more mixed. In 1987, the last year for which we could get good statistics, government spending as a proportion of gross national product was nearly 37 per cent, about as high as it had ever been in peacetime. Spending by the federal government did reach a peacetime peak in 1983, under the alleged budget-cutter Ronald Reagan. Subsequently it fell — although by only a couple of

percentage points — but American state and local governments rushed in and filled the gap.

This still leaves the American economy considerably less government-dominated than the welfare states of Western Europe, of course. In 1987 EC governments spent an average of 51 per cent of national GNP, also a record. But both are far above the levels of 20 years ago.

Socialism is ultimately about political control of the economy. However, ownership is not necessary for control. Regulating the rent a landlord can charge redistributes resources without passing one cent through government accounts.

The level of government regulation in the economy is difficult to measure. One traditional method used by US economists has been to count the annual number of pages in the Federal Register, in which all federal agency decrees have to be recorded. By late 1980, this number was growing exponentially — quadrupling that of ten years earlier, and heading straight up.

Now, when you plot it on a graph, it looks like the Matterhorn — but a Matterhorn conhorn — a jagged mountain needed to be two-thirds up on the right. Regulatory activity did apparently drop under Reagan, but only to mid-1970s levels. Currently, it is on an upward jag.

This impression is roughly confirmed by the work of the Center for the Study of American Business at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, which monitors the amount spent on the federal regulatory agencies. It makes the reasonable assumption that if you hire regulators, they don't sit around all day but actually go out and regulate.

Adjusted for inflation, spending on regulatory agencies is more than 20 per cent above its record level when Reagan came to power. Expressed as a share of GNP — which of course is affected by the economy's strong growth — it is slightly below its 1980 level, although far above that of ten years before. Generally, the centre comments, Reagan did seem to slow, if not stop or reverse, the growth of federal regulation in his first term. But after 1984 the old trends resumed.

Socialism is not dead in America. It has merely mutated. And with its new form, it has a new rationale. Previously, it was justified in terms of efficiency — it would prevent slumps. Now it is justified in terms of equity — for example, extirpating discrimination through racial and gender quotas.

Lord Acton said that all power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Absolute socialism has led to the catastrophe of Eastern Europe. Qualified socialism — neo-socialism? — will lead to qualified catastrophe. But catastrophe none the less.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes* Magazine.

The expert touch in danger of extinction

Dudley Fishburn believes the growing pressure to confine MPs to the parliamentary grindstone would be counter-productive



the near insolvency of a ballet company is increasingly mal vu.

The outside job or interest has fallen into disrepute with the growth of lobbying. The Commons rattles with stories of MPs who are paid to ask questions to promote this change in the law or that policy. "Dear Minister, I represent Consolidated International. Please give them the doh" — that, apparently, is the kind of correspondence now winging its way around Whitehall at the behest of lobbyists who have paid MPs to represent them. That sounds a rather miserable way of earning a living. It is not in any way an outside interest; it is, rather the contrary, inside tinkering.

It is also, in my view, unethical.

But in someone else's it may not be. So be it. The one thing to avoid, as is now being suggested, is more rules to prescribe what is ethical and what is not. Judgment is in the head or it is nowhere. Consider what has happened in Congress. Complicated rules have been drawn up which invite congressmen to abandon the still small voice of individual conscience for a code of practice. So long as they are operating within the rules, all's well. Indeed, Jim Wright, Speaker of the House of Representatives until his recent resignation for corruption, defended himself by claiming that he went up to the limits of the rule book, but not beyond them. If ethics come to this, we are in trouble indeed.

The rules at Westminster

governing outside earnings are clear and surprisingly sensible. An MP registers his commercial and other interests in a book. If he wishes to speak on the floor of the House concerning an industry from which he receives personal benefit then, quite simply, he says so in the course of his remarks. I have seen times when this causes ripples of laughter. At other times, conversely, the House cocks an intelligent ear in the hope that here, finally, is someone who knows what he is talking about.

At question time an interest does not have to be declared but I cannot believe that a wise man would not volunteer it. I certainly did on the one occasion that I have asked such a question — on the subsidy given to the English National Ballet: none, I trust, thought it immoral. Nor have my outside paymasters ever asked me to influence the government. Their interest in me rests not in what I can do for them in Parliament but rather in keeping them abreast of what Parliament might do to them.

Enoch Powell, that stern constitutionalist, steadfastly refused to register his interests, on the logical ground that he, as a sovereign Member of Parliament, was not answerable to any imposed rules of behaviour. He had his own conscience and, thank you, that was enough for him. If MPs' outside interests were curtailed there would be two consequences. Parliament would become the preserve either of those who wished to live exclusively off the £26,000 salary — or those with independent outside wealth: a narrow choice and not a healthy one.

The supply of outside experience would soon dry up. In particular, international knowledge — which this country needs in abundance to bustle in the world — must by definition be impossible. Parliament cannot shackle itself thus.

When I was on the Water Bill standing committee, a fine Labour MP declared at every amendment that the Government's action would ruin the habitat of the lesser spotted flycatcher, or some such. He was an officer of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. A fine Tory argued, no, it was the brown trout that was at risk. He was briefed by the angling lobby and got, I hope, a few days' free fishing.

I argued for a National Trust amendment to protect the uplands: my father-in-law had been director-general of the Trust and I hoped, not least, for some parental approval. Were we all villains? I think not. Would we have been villains had the recompense been higher — is there higher recompense than parental approval? I think not.

A backbencher without interests is just that: a backbencher without interest. The author has been Conservative MP for Kensington since July 1988.

No, you could never blackmail me



MATTHEW PARRIS

I await the anonymous telephone call. "Meester Parris? There's the Red Scorpion. Unless you wish us to publish the Tory Conference Handbook linking your name with the Conser-

vative Group for Homosexual Equality, then you will write four parliamentary sketches this month ridiculing Mrs Thatcher..." Click — Br. Rats! And I had only planned to write three.

I suppose there was a time when I really was (theoretically) blackmailable. That was after I joined the Foreign Office but before it struck me that you only live once. Of course I should never have joined. After Cambridge, M16 had already offered me a job as a spy and "positively vetted" me, and if that didn't suggest I was a security risk, then what would?

Besides I should have reflected on the fact that, were my private

life more public, I might be sucked — and decided there and then to forsake my choice of career. Oddly enough I decided to stick to my career-choice, and keep quiet about my private life: an eccentric decision, quite out of accord with human nature, which probably arose from not having read enough newspaper editorials. Few would react like this.

But in the event only one attempt was (arguably) made to subvert me. A very good-looking Bulgarian diplomat approached me at a north London party given by a mutual friend in the Foreign Office, and asked me if I would give him a lift in my car to the Cromwell Road. I agreed.

He sat rather too close. That is how I knew he had terrible breath. His assignment failed! There is a lesson, here, for the Bulgarian Intelligence authorities. Some months later he sent me a friendly postcard from Bulgaria. I handed it immediately to the Foreign Office security people.

But I could not have been blackmailed, even then. I could not be blackmailed now. That is because I believe in justice, and accept as just a country which, for its part, accepts me and which I love. The only times when I feel even the tiniest bit subvertible are when something causes me to doubt that acceptance.

So, dear reader, next time you see a Scottish judge in a gay bar, then, so long as he's not doing anyone any harm or breaking the law, take my advice. Shake his hand!

Oh dear! "Lord Denning speaks out" — and a *Times* leading article about sex.

I'm sure they're both right, of course. As to Lord Denning, his shock at events in Scotland is natural. The mere thought of entering the gay discotheques of Whitchurch, Hurstbourne Priors and Wootton St Lawrence, and finding Lord Denning attempting the lambada, outrages as much by its improbability as by its impropriety. Any sneaking reflection that in such fantastic circumstances one might want to give the old boy an encouraging squeeze on the arm, rather than an admonitory slap in the face, must be banished almost before it is entertained.

As to *The Times*, it would be impertinent to tease. Those leading articles are guiding stars not just to the political but also to the personal side of one's life; and I

found great comfort in the final paragraphs of yesterday's leader, which assured me that it was not wrong to be tempted, only to succumb. If it were possible to thank whomever wrote it for that kindly thought, one would want to; but leader-writers keep this side of their lives secret, I'm afraid. Hm.

I confess, though, that the earlier part of the article worried me. Apparently I am in danger of being blackmailed. This is perplexing. Since the day when I decided it was best to be honest about my sexual preferences a few impediments have been put in my way, but the likelihood of blackmail seemed (to my un-

tutored judgement) to have diminished.

Of course the Sunday Shockers are skilled at turning common knowledge into an exclusive revelation. "WE REVEAL," one might have read, "the House of Commons speech on the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order, that Parris thought only he and Mr Speaker knew about. (See p17 for more stunning extracts from Hansard)." Or, perhaps, "Self-confessed Soviet agent Boris Plikovsky was arrested last night at Dover, bound for Moscow with secret tape-recordings of an Oxford Union debate involving Tory backbencher Matthew Parris..."

هذا من الأصل



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

THE MARSHAL'S LEGACY

For the first time since Marshal Tito's death 10 years ago, there will be genuine popular interest in the outcome of the congress of Yugoslavia's League of Communists. The congress, which opens today, is the sole remaining forum for the six parties of the federal republic's fractious national communities.

This, the league's 14th extraordinary congress, may well be the last. So numerous and inextinguishable are the centrifugal forces which are now loosening the ties between the Serbs and the smaller nationalities, that a multiple divorce of the constituent parts of the Titoist movement now seems more likely than not. Whether a break-up of the federal party brings the disintegration of Yugoslavia itself in its train depends very much on one man.

Whether Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian party leader, has been a blessing for his country is open to doubt. His followers — who turn out in their hundreds of thousands to cheer his fiery oratory — claim that he has prevented the murder or expulsion from Kosovo by the Albanian majority of the region's Serbian inhabitants. His critics, including most of the non-Serbian population, see him as a dangerous demagogue, who has whipped up enthusiasm for a "Greater Serbia" and manipulated the ancient hostility towards Islam in order to establish Serbian supremacy; not only over the Yugoslav Albanians, but also the richer and more Western republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

More objective observers would scarcely deny that he is an authoritarian communist of the old school with aspirations to assume the mantle of Tito. Mr Milosevic has, to say the least, failed to discourage millions of Serbs from hanging his portrait alongside the Marshal's, or even in place of it. The cult of the personality apart, however, the Serbian leader has yet to show any achievements comparable to Tito's.

If this weekend he refuses to bend to the wishes of his Slovene and Croatian comrades for the transformation of the Communist League into a social democratic platform on which to fight multi-party elections, he may tear Yugoslavia apart. This would be a recipe for the Albanization of Serbia: a strange prospect for Mr Milosevic to offer his people.

Should Mr Milosevic decide after all not to

provoke the dismemberment of Yugoslavia, free elections will have to be announced this weekend, signalling the end of the party's hold on power. Amid the turmoil elsewhere in Central and Eastern Europe, yet another abandonment of the communist monopoly of power may seem both belated and unsurprising. Yet there was more to Titoism than communism alone.

Part of that legacy is a legend of civilian suffering, military heroism and ultimate victory over the Germans and their Croat allies. The Army still sees itself as the guardian of Titoism, and in recent days there has been sabre-rattling from officers who rightly scent decay in the mausoleum to defunct theories which Yugoslavia has become.

Alone, the generals would have little chance of imposing military rule for long; but if Mr Milosevic chose to align himself with them, a civilian façade might be maintained. Since Slovenes and Croats, at least, would not tolerate such a regime, the country might easily be plunged into a civil war which could only end in the amputation of its healthiest limbs.

Fortunately, such a bloody scenario is still unlikely. It serves, however, as a reminder of the sinister side of the Marshal's legacy — one which has tended to be forgotten during the past 10 chaotic years of jockeying for position among the pygmies who succeeded him.

Yugoslavia today is a divided and intolerant society. Its ruined economy suffers from hyper-inflation, negative returns on capital investment, heavy dependence on the meagre earnings of returning Yugoslav "guest workers", whose jobs in West Germany are now being taken by Germans from the East. Tito's secret police and his unscrupulous methods of destroying opposition did not die with him: it is no accident that Mr Milosevic is presently conducting the only show trials in Europe. Painful as it must be for a country to face the truth about its past, the time has come for Yugoslavia to consign Titoism to history and emerge from its shadow.

There are signs that Serbs, as well as other Yugoslavs, understand the need to build on the positive aspects of the Marshal's legacy: the preservation of a viable federal state. Mr Milosevic would not be the right man to carry the torch.

MAKING IT WORK

The long poll tax marathon in Parliament is over. The Conservative whips have successfully twisted the arms of enough of their potential backbench rebels and ministers can again breathe freely. If, in Disraeli's classic dictum "one is enough" for parliamentary power, then the majorities of 46 and 36 which the Government secured on Thursday for the arrangements for the amount and distribution of Exchequer money to local authorities were ample.

This said, however, it was no light matter for 26 Tory MPs to vote against approving the level of central funding for local councils, or for 31 of them to vote against the mechanism for distributing the grant. What is more, the rebels were drawn from both right and left of the party and included many who are convinced Thatcherites and market supporters. The Government got its majorities because the general political risks of any failure to do so would have been too frightful for Tory MPs to contemplate.

Ministers can have no illusion, therefore, that they have necessarily heard the last of controversy over what they prefer to call the community charge. It has, from the outset, been fraught with difficulties and even its best friends cannot say that it was conceived as a platonically perfect ideal mechanism for raising local taxation.

It began, in fact, as an expedient. Its origin was in Mrs Thatcher's personal commitment to get rid of the unfair system of rates and to find a better way. Her original disposition had been to favour some sort of local income tax, but the Layfield committee had concluded in 1976 that this was not feasible.

The concept was therefore devised of a community charge levied on all individuals, with reduced liability for poorer people who secure a rebate through the social security system. Local authorities should therefore be more responsive to the poll tax payers while those who pay the charge have every reason to call their local councils to account for their spending habits. To rescue businesses (without any voting power) from being driven away

from high-rated districts the uniform business rate is to be levied and then distributed over the country.

Both devices have attracted much criticism. As a result, the increases from the uniform business rate will be limited over the first five years. But while industry, in many areas (usually Labour-controlled) which were over-charged will now benefit, businesses in other areas, notably in the South-east, will be worse off. There will be winners but also losers.

With the community charge on individuals the principal concession has been to soften the initial impact of the new system by a redistribution of the Government grant to benefit the areas likely to be hardest hit — which are mostly Labour-controlled. This, however, will be largely at the expense of Tory areas. Local authorities will be allowed to spend 11.1 per cent more next year, including 8.5 per cent more money coming from central government and from the business rate.

But under the safety net arrangements, low spending authorities (most of them Tory) which would otherwise gain substantially by the community charge, will have to forgo half that gain in the first year. Government funding allowing them to benefit in full only takes effect in the second year — which is part of the reason for Tory resentment.

Far from being a clear and perfect system, therefore, the community charge is one that has had to be trimmed by expediency and patched by compromise. Its political effect is still to be felt and the local council elections in May will be the first indicator. Tories should recognize, however, as Mr Norman Tebbit observed in the Commons this week, that this is the future system of local government and that it is at least no more unfair than the old rating system.

On the other hand, its details are not sacrosanct. The sensible thing to do now is to accept the system and see how it works. It will still be possible for the Government to deal with any adverse side-effects if this is necessary in the next year or two.

Children's needs

From Mrs Charles D. Brandreth
Sir, I would like to express my complete agreement with Mrs Douglas-Pennant's opinion (January 3) on the needs of children being considered when plans are being made for extending child-care facilities.

For five months of each year I tutor, on a one-to-one basis, dyslexic children between the ages of five and 11. I tutor in a Catholic parochial school in Southern California, which provides good "day care" for children whose parents are working.

Day care covers the period outside the regular school hours — i.e. from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Most of the children I tutor have

parents who take advantage (at a cost) of this facility. The children have all told me, repeatedly and unasked, that they "hate" day care.

When told that the extra income they earned provides luxuries that they would not otherwise enjoy — very often "summer camp" which American children love — they all with one voice say they would rather have Mom at home — and be at home.

These are children of an age to understand why an extra income might be needed. What about the under-sixes, who are unable to express their views?

Yours faithfully,
ALICE BRANDRETH,
2 Clarence Gate Gardens, NW1.

To memory dear

From Mr T. Murrell
Sir, Prompted by Mr MacGregor's letter (January 16) on static school fees in the 1930s and by the new stamp (photograph, January 6) depicting the queen Elizabeth and Victoria, I was prompted to rummage through my schoolboy stamp collection to refresh my own memory of static charges.

I find I had acquired an envelope with a "penny red", franked Lynn, November, 1851,

and was able to send myself an envelope exactly 100 years later, still for one penny.

I note also that the 1851 envelope rivals Mr Harte's letter (January 16) for its brevity of address, stating simply: "Alex Curzon Esq, Lynn".

Yours faithfully,
T. MURRELL,
Adelaide Dock,
Endsleigh Road,
Southall,
Middlesex,
January 16.

A piece of history

From Mr John-Paul Ross
Sir, The cash fashioned from the bowsprit of HMS Victory (Letters, January 2 and 16) is matched, on my desk as I write, with a similar earlier souvenir but from a much later ship. This is also a miniature cash, bearing a brass label that reads, "From the teak of HMS Iron Duke Admiral Jellicoe's Flagship, Jutland 1916".

This relic belonged to my late father, a naval officer of the "old" Navy — "Britannia" school. He was not at Jutland himself, but I still vividly remember how, at the age of 7½, I was woken up by my mother in our farm lodgings close to the then naval harbour of Invergordon to listen to the distant rumble of heavy gunfire from a great naval battle then in progress.

Next day we learned of Jutland and I was taken with my sisters to Invergordon to see the return of some of the ships, with flames spouting from their damaged smokestacks and with their tattered rags of battle-colours still proudly flying.

Yours etc.,
J-P. B. ROSS,
Château de la Ferrière,
La Ferrière de Flée,
49500 Segré, France.

Irradiation as health hazard

From Sir Julian Rose

Sir, It is to be greatly regretted that the Lords have failed to bring the Government to its senses concerning the proposal to introduce food irradiation techniques into this country (report, January 12).

It should be readily apparent that this is a "high-tech" attempt to paper over the rapidly widening cracks of our modern food production techniques. Food irradiation marks the zenith of misguided technical "fixes" for problems that have to be tackled at source, via a bold and possibly radical reappraisal of the way we produce, handle and distribute our food.

When 60 per cent of chicken carcasses in shops and 50 per cent of raw pork sausages are found to be partially infected with salmonella or listeria, it is the height of irresponsibility to proclaim that the only solution is to sterilize the offending products with powerful doses of gamma radiation.

Soft cheese, chicken and pork have formed the ingredients of many household diets for generations. It is evidently the "increasing sophistication of systems of production and processing" that lies behind the steep rise in incidents of often severe food poisoning now being detected.

Consumer trends are moving strongly towards fresh, flavourful, unadulterated foods, preferably grown without recourse to agrochemicals and growth-fostering techniques. Many would prefer to buy this produce locally, before it has gone through the debilitating mass distribution network.

If they could, their chances of being infected by listeria, salmonella or most other sources of food poisoning would be considerably lessened and their general health greatly improved.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN ROSE,
Path Hill Farm Cottage,
Goring Heath,
Near Reading, Oxfordshire,
January 14.

Handling salmon

From the Director of the Salmon & Trout Association

Sir, I do hope that the report in today's Times (January 16) that the first salmon of the season caught on the River Tay was quickly thrown back is incorrect.

The majority of anglers have respect for their quarry and especially for the "king of fish", salmon. Fish destined to be eaten should be speedily and mercifully despatched. Those being returned should be handled carefully, the hook removed without damaging the flesh, the fish replaced in the water (facing upstream, to enhance the oxygen flow) and held until it has recovered sufficiently to swim away.

According to the report, the fish was a kelt — i.e. a salmon which has spawned and was on its way back to the sea. As such it is protected by the law and it would have been an offence if the fish had been taken. The hope implicit in the law is that kelts will return to spawn again; all the more reason for handling them with due care.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES FERGUSON, Director,
The Salmon & Trout Association,
Fishmongers' Hall,
London Bridge, EC4.

Vetting visitors

From Mr Stuart J. Lawson

Sir, May I recommend to Mrs Pearce, who seeks a method of dealing with unexpected callers (January 18), a door bell that doesn't work and a door with no knocker. I haven't been plagued with visitors for nearly three years.

Yours faithfully,
STUART LAWSON,
44 Marford Road,
Wheatthamstead, Hertfordshire.

From Mrs Mary S. Jackson
Sir, My "stage props" are a large all-enveloping apron and a tape measure round the neck, which always elicit the response, "I know you're very busy so I won't keep you". They have proved invaluable, particularly during Wimbledon fortnight when the doorbell always rings at match point.

Yours faithfully,
MARY S. JACKSON,
Jackyrd Lane, Newsome,
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

Needs of disabled

From Sir Peter Tennant

Sir, May I comment on Ian McColl's article of January 5 ("Wheelchairs: still symbols of a world apart"). Design for the disabled, as for any other group, begins with the market: it is not what well-meaning Civil Servants or manufacturers may think is good for them.

Few who can afford to buy a wheelchair would think of buying one approved by the NHS when they have a choice of well-designed imported chairs from Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, the USA and most recently France, supported by their own disabled minister for the disabled, Mr Gillibert. How many of the 70,000 wheelchairs bought annually by the NHS from a monopoly of suppliers compete in export markets?

Alas, there are only a few disabled people who can afford the choice of imported chairs, many of them being those who have benefited from substantial compensation for accidents. There is little or no choice for those who are born disabled or have become victims of disabling diseases in later life.

Fears of dying alone in hospital

From Ms Marjorie Wallace

Sir, I read with interest your article, "Case for kid gloves" (Health, January 11), about the efforts of the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital to ease the anxiety of young patients by allowing their mothers to stay with them.

I still remember, as a child of five, the desperation I felt when my parents left me in hospital for the night. But on the various occasions when my own four children have needed hospital treatment mothers have been permitted — even expected — to be there at all times. There is no doubting the difference it made.

But it is not only children who become frightened and depressed when they are left alone in hospital. Could we not extend the same humanity to older people who are seriously or dangerously ill? Why should they face their hardest moments alone, suddenly and often brutally removed from the presence of their partner, family or friend?

A few weeks ago my mother spent five weeks in hospital suffering a series of strokes from which she died. She had been an adventurous and courageous woman, but she dreaded, as many do, being in hospital at the moment when visitors leave, the car doors shut and they drive away, abandoning the patient to the long hospital night.

As it happens, she was in a private hospital which allowed her to use a "mother and child room", where the family could take it in turns to spend the night with her. Although she could not speak or move, her eyes expressed joy and relief that she was not alone.

We should be campaigning now, as James Robertson did for the children in the 1950s, to prevent the unnecessary suffering and fear that critically ill patients face, by making hospital rules more flexible, so that a member of the family or close friend can when necessary spend the night.

Experience in children's hospitals suggests this should not be impossible. Many hospitals are limited by nursing resources rather than space. With imaginative reorganisation of this space for amenity rooms and put-up beds, it should be possible to make room for the patient's carers, and they could well reduce the load on hospital staff, as happens in many parts of Europe and the world.

Surely, we should all have the choice, if not the right, to spend our last nights on earth in the presence of someone whom we love or loves us.

Yours faithfully,
MARJORIE WALLACE,
Nuffield College, Oxford,
January 15.

Science too pure?

From Professor J. C. Willmott

Sir, In his article of January 4, Mr David Davis, MP, reminded us that Britain has a superb record in winning Nobel prizes, but a very poor record in turning scientific ideas into profitable technological products. Unfortunately, I believe his proposals, by themselves, will not do much to improve the situation.

The fundamental problem in this country is not the balance of funding between interest-led research and project-led research (the distinction Mr Davis should have made) but in the status and respect which is accorded to scientists and engineers in most areas of British society.

It is, I believe, no accident that we have outstanding successful chemical and pharmaceutical industries, for both of them eagerly seek out the best scientists our universities produce and reward them appropriately; but in most of British industry the idea of paying an engineer as much as a lawyer or accountant is apparently regarded as laughable. As a result, an increasing number of our best

science graduates are going into finance and accountancy.

An education in the arts automatically offers a training in the skill of trying to persuade people to look at an established body of knowledge in a different light, the very stuff of politics. But technological development requires the quantitative approach, and the dealing with falsifiable ideas that come naturally to scientists who have practised their trade for several years.

Until this mode of thought is respected and rewarded as much as the modes of the arts person and accountant, and is equally represented in the higher reaches of government, industry and the Civil Service, Mr Davis's ideas will not go far to improve the situation. We are paying dearly for an almost slavish following of the dictum, usually attributed to Churchill, that "scientists should be on tap, but not on top".

Yours faithfully,
J. C. WILLMOTT,
Office of Research and Technology Transfer,
University of Manchester,
Oxford Road,
Manchester 13.

Riding in the Row

From Mr Nicholas Lavender

Sir, The correspondence in your columns (January 9, 13) reminds me of the following passage from George Gissing's *Workers in the Dawn*, published in 1880:

"Where is your ride to be today?", asked Helen.

"Where, my dear child? Why, in the Row, of course. When the sun is shining, I should like to go to the Row, where the people ride, I should like to know. Waghorn calls for me at four."

"Do you enjoy your ride in the Row?"

"Enjoy! My dear Helen, you grow more naive every day. Is it meant to be enjoyed, think you? Do you suppose that any soul ever does enjoy it? ... We go to the Row to show ourselves, and purely from a sense of duty. Society requires it of us. Who would venture to question the dictates of society?"

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS LAVENDER,
37 Stearforth Street,
Earlsfield, SW18.

From Mrs S. E. Haydon
Sir, Mrs Stella Walker (January 13) may still gain the rosette she sadly failed to win in the 1930s equestrian concours d'elegance if she remembers her spurs. Certainly her Tautz riding jacket, with perhaps minor refurbishment, will stand up to examination.

For one elegant equestrienne we have recently been asked to let out a few seams in a riding jacket made for the young lady's great aunt in the 1920s. That refurbished Tautz jacket may yet appear in Rotten Row, although we understand that it is intended for show jumping.

Yours faithfully,
S. E. HAYDON (Manager),
Tautz & Co.,
19 Clifford Street, Savile Row, W1

There are all too few manufacturers who understand the importance of the disabled market, both at home and abroad, and the opportunities it offers for the use of new technologies and lighter and stronger materials.

The time has come for designers to design from the market to the product, not the other way round.

Yours sincerely,
PETER TENNANT,
Blue Anchor House,
Linchmere Road,
Hammer, Surrey,
January 6.

From the Chief Executive of Arthritis Care
Sir, It is respect that disabled people need, as Lord McColl says in his article, or it is equality of opportunity, which implies an integrated education system and the ability to make real choices?

Arthritis, the most common cause of physical disability in the UK, is a painful disabling disease which can make it difficult to do everyday tasks. For example, an ordinary 13-amp plug costs 75p,

but someone with arthritis may need a plug with a handle which costs £2.15.

Without a comprehensive disability income recognising the extra costs of disability, it is difficult to exercise real choice.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN GAFFIN,
Chief Executive,
Arthritis Care,
5 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1.

From Mr Digby Jacks
Sir, Professor McColl apparently fails to appreciate that there is a general and reciprocal relationship between poverty and disability. The voucher scheme which advocates high quality products for those who can top up their voucher with cash or credit cards (wheelchairs and limbs are expensive products) and a bog-standard NHS appliance for the majority, I fear that the vouchers would before long exchange for little more than crutches.

It would be interesting to know the Government's view.

Yours etc.,
DIGBY JACK,
(London Regional Officer),
The Industry and Services Union,
98 St Pancras Way, NW1.

Student view of new Romania

From Mr Pascal Pamfil

Sir, I am a graduate of a musical school, but I could not get a job or pursue my studies further under the Ceausescu reign. Nor could I travel abroad and meet people with similar concerns. I hope that in the future all these limitations will cease and that we will come into contact with other people, students of different European universities and cultural establishments, and come to know the art of their countries.

We hope to get scholarships and other facilities to travel freely and improve our minds. This country has been a kind of prison, and we are happy to have broken free. Our brave army and fearless youth have helped us to gain this freedom we were thirsting for.

I took part in the huge demonstration and struggles that took place in the university square. As I live quite close to the studio of the radio building in Nufierilor Street, I witnessed in the following days and nights the severe fights that took place around it.

I helped the soldiers and other young people to the best of my abilities. I helped the men of the fire brigades to put out the fires. All the people who had defended the broadcasting station against terrorists proved to have wonderful courage and selfless obligation. Some of them did not sleep for five nights on end.

I fully agree to the programme of the National Salvation Front and I am happy to have celebrated Christmas as a free man.

Long live our newly gained freedom!

Yours etc.,
PASCAL PAMFIL,
Sir Nufierilor 103,
Bucharest Sect 1,
Romania,
January 7.

Remembering Svejik

From Mr David Robson

Sir, Bernard Levin's perceptive article (January 18) on the Good Soldier Svejk reminds me that there was, in my visits to Prague in 1968 and 1978, a tangible reminder of the lovable rogue. The "Chalice" Inn where Svejik (Hasek) used to meet his friends "at six o'clock" was still doing good business. So, why not a statue as well?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROBSON,
16 Salers Lane South,
Dartford, Co. Durham.

Museum charges

From Sir Terence Conran

Sir, In an ideal world we would have free public transport, free water, gas and electricity, free public entertainment in theatres, opera houses and concert halls, and free entry to all museums and art galleries.

Well, as everybody knows, we live in a far from ideal world, especially in the UK, and do not have the benefit of the vast donations from the public and private sector, as is the case with American aesthetic institutions. Comparison is odious to those of us who try and make ends meet in this country.

I know this as an embattled trustee of the V&A, which attempts to get voluntary contributions from the visitors, and of the Design Museum, which charges a modest entry fee with no objections being voiced.

Therefore it seems to me that either the Government has to radically alter its funding arrangements or alter the tax laws, or the public have to accept that they live in a country where they have to pay for their pleasure and education.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE CONRAN,
Design Museum,
Butlers Wharf,
Shad Thames, SE1.

From Mrs P. M. Millar
Sir, Perhaps, as I do, many people may feel prepared to pay for admission to museums on occasional visits to other towns. These are somewhat special.

However, one's own local museum is a different matter. Here it is common practice to call in for frequent, short visits for some particular research, or merely as an interesting or informative interlude to enliven a shopping expedition. Children in particular, whose attention span is brief, benefit more from regular, brief visits than from infrequent but lengthy ones.

Could therefore local ratepayers be provided with free admission tickets for their own local museum, similar to public library tickets? This might be a satisfactory compromise with current trends, preserving to some extent the principle of free access to the nation's treasures, many of which have, in the past, been donated to museums with the express purpose of making them available, without charge, to the community.

Yours faithfully,
P. M. MILLAR,
3 Jessop Close,
Rogersstone, Newport, Gwent.

A knotty question

From Mr J. P. Lavelle

Sir, I remain ignorant on what position the end of the tie should be in when knotted: should it be to the "belt line" or to the last visible button on the shirt?

Yours faithfully,
J. P. LAVELLE,
35 Berners Drive,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
January 18.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

PRINCE
burial from
piano



On radio part of Semprini's success came from the fact that he was usually a popular section taken from the bits of the day, followed by a piece of "exotic" - he drew from the movies and from stage musicals and always included a light classical piece. He claimed, with some justification, that he was broadening musical horizons, but Semprini, ever the professional, knew that this mixture would very well indeed for the Light Programme audience.

He made no pretence to perform for the intellectuals and was unashamedly that his playing was designed to appeal to the heart and not the head. "It should touch the emotions," he said, "but he did not resort to the clichés of fancy waltzes and waltz-like dancing, which were very popular."

The last years of this lack of pretence was a remarkable performance by a pianist who had been near a complete breakdown but a determined effort to keep the music alive. Semprini is survived by his second wife, a child, and their two sons, plus a daughter from a previous marriage.

Correction

On 17th January 1990, a notice in the Times stated that the funeral of a child was to be held on 17th January. This was a mistake. The funeral was held on 18th January.

REPORT

up a simple
r success

The first public telephone kiosk of Gilbert Scott's design was set up beside the Garrick Theatre in London soon after the appearance of this report.

TELEPHONE
ADVANCE

The great work of telephone extensions now being carried out by the Post Office may be prosaic to outward view, but many of its aspects are touched by romance. There is, for example, the development which will soon result in the linking up by direct wire of London and Wick in the extreme north of Scotland. Inverness is the present terminus of direct telephonic communications in this direction, but, by means of a relay station now under construction there, it will soon be possible to speak from the Metropolis and, it is believed, to be heard clearly in the little Scottish fishing town, on the edge of bleak moors, in the harbour of which Robert Louis Stevenson, as a youth, had his first and last adventure in a diver's outfit.

This extension will form another of the many "branching off" from the telephone cable which connects London with Glasgow. The policy of the Post Office is to construct underground cables in all parts of the country, and this work is proceeding as rapidly as possible.

The bad effect of recent storms on the overhead wires proved again the importance of having the telephone lines protected. Extensions of the main trunk and the local cable systems are in hand throughout many districts. Seven main underground cables are under construction in the Manchester area and further

Henry Gee

Today's royal
engagement

BIRTHS

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On January 17th, to the

Anatomy of a marriage

TELEVISION CHOICE

Peter Waymark

● A first television drama by the Jamaican-born playwright Nigel Moffatt, *When Love Dies* (Channel 4, 9.00pm) opens with a wedding but immediately moves forward 12 years to the husband reflecting bitterly on the failure of the relationship and the death of the wife. It is a format that allows the author to escape the straightjacket of chronology and to select the most telling incidents without having to fit them into sequential framework. Whether he selects enough to make the piece plausible must be for the spectator to judge. Beyond fairly obvious arguments about money and children, it may be felt that the collapse of the marriage is never satisfactorily explained. But the process



of disintegration, as recalled by Richard (Brian Bove) from the bleak emptiness of the room in his parents' house to which he has retreated, is clear enough. Haunted by images of his dead spouse (Josette Simon), he imagines her back with him only to find himself once more abandoned and alone. The ripples extend from Richard to his mother and step-father and underpin Moffatt's theme that while love may die, life must somehow go on. As may be imagined from the theme this is a mainly sombre piece though not without a vein of dry humour, much of which is provided by Norman Beaton as a visiting pastor. A final reflection on *When Love Dies* is that not so long ago it would have been remarkable to have had on television a drama with a black cast, black writer and black director (Horace Ove), let alone one in which race was not the issue.

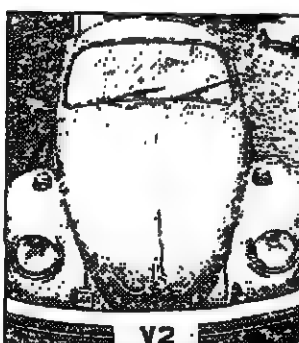
● True to its cosmopolitan title, *Rhythms of the World* (BBC1, 8.00pm) features Dédé Saint Prix. Born in Martinique and based since 1986 in Paris, he is an exponent of Zouk, the dance music of the French Antilles with its mixture of Spanish, African and Haitian influences. His jaunty, foot-tapping songs, and his skills as singer, flautist and drummer, are displayed in excerpts from his first London concert, interspersed with an interview. A genial, bespectacled figure, who performs in knee-length white shorts, Saint Prix has come from small street in tiny Caribbean island but he has managed to gain an international appeal without compromising his cultural roots. Despite its Third World origins, his music is good-humoured and bears no grudges.

To the Beetle, with love

RADIO CHOICE

Peter Davale

● Most of the addicts' effusions about their roly-poly VWs in *Beetlemania* (Radio 4, 10.15pm) border on the metaphysical. They add human dimensions to the metal work, glass and rubber which is all the outside sees. "You've got to talk to it all the time, otherwise it would just go phut-phut and stop," says one owner. "If I could have taken it to bed, I would have," says another. "It's got a mind of its own," says a third. "The heating never turns off, and when you switch the engine on in the morning, the car twitches and rocks from side to side." There is a wag or two among tonight's enthusiastic contributors to this delightfully cranky *Saturday Feature*. One Beetle lover recalls how his fellow fans used to wave to each other because they felt they were cocks of the walk, whereas drivers of Reliant Robins would wave to each other out of mutual sympathy.



The Volkswagen Beetle has a mind of its own (R4, 10.15pm)

Less sentimental members of the Beetle-owning fraternity can test their knowledge to night. A Beetle club quiz question asks: "How many bolts hold the clutch cover to the fly-wheel?"

● I would also recommend Smith's *Elegy* (Radio 4, 10.45pm). Phil Smith trudges around a North Yorkshire graveyard and through dank tunnels to compile a belated tribute to some 200 railway heroes who died building the Settle to Carlisle line.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

HAOMA

(a) A sacred drink prepared from the haoma vine, used as a sacrament in Zoroastrian ritual; when capitalized a deity in person, the personification of the haoma; from the Persian *haoma* the sacred plant of the Persians and Parthians.

(b) American jargon for two contests, especially baseball games, played at one meeting; also an American train pulled by two locomotives; also, in saleslark, a cus-

tomizer who buys more than one of the same item at a time.

TATE

(a) Scottish and Northern dialect for a portion, pinch, or tuft of wool, as in "a tate of sail", from Icelandic *tata* to tear to shreds; "O wad some there's but a tale rentin'".

LENTISK

(c) The mastic tree, *Pistacia lentiscus*, from the Latin *lentiscus*: "Who courted but us on soft beds recline/O' lentisk, and soft branches of the vine."

BBC

7.30 *Saturday Starts Here!* with Wayne Jackson and Ian Tregonning beginning with *Playdays* (r) 7.55 *Laurie and Hardy in Sitting Rooms* (r) 8.00 *Mersey Tales*, Mark McGarr with the story of *Mr Prendergast's Return*, by Roy Apps 8.05 *The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse* 8.20 *Chuckie* 8.30 *The Chuckie Brothers* decide to take the media industry by storm 8.35 *Thundercats in The Fireballs of Plum-Darr* (r)

9.00 *Going Live!* Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield are joined by Friends of the Earth director, Jonathan Porritt, singer Tanita Tikaram and top author Dick King-Smith 12.12 *Weather*

12.15 *Grandstand* introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 *Stirling from Kitzbühel*; 12.40, 1.10 and 1.45 *Racing from Haydock Park*; 1.50 *News*; 1.55 *Continental Cup* highlights of previous championships; 2.00 *Rugby Union*: live coverage of the game at Twickenham between England and Ireland; 3.50 *Football highlights* of the Wales v France game in Cardiff; 4.40 *Final Score*

5.05 *News* with Laurie Mayer. *Weather* 5.15 *Regional News* and sport 5.20 *The Flying Doctors: Myths and Legends*, Coopers Cross becomes a centre of media attention when an old man comes out of the bush claiming he is a character from local legend. Despite townfolk's scepticism, Violet and Hurdie believe the man is telling the truth. With Liz Burch and Robert Grubb. (Ceefax)

6.05 *Jim'll Fix It*. Jimmy Saville makes more dramatic come back to which he has retreated, is clear enough. Haunted by images of his dead spouse (Josette Simon), he imagines her back with him only to find himself once more abandoned and alone. The ripples extend from Richard to his mother and step-father and underpin Moffatt's theme that while love may die, life must somehow go on. As may be imagined from the theme this is a mainly sombre piece though not without a vein of dry humour, much of which is provided by Norman Beaton as a visiting pastor. A final reflection on *When Love Dies* is that not so long ago it would have been remarkable to have had on television a drama with a black cast, black writer and black director (Horace Ove), let alone one in which race was not the issue.

6.40 *Full House*. Bob Monkhouse invites four more contestants to test their wits on the quiz bongo board for the chance to win a luxury holiday. (Ceefax) 7.15 *The Paul Daniels Magic Show*. Paul is joined by Les Hughes from South America, who give a display of their gaucho skills, and magician Kevin James from California. With Debbie McGee. (Ceefax)

8.00 *Waterfront*. Detective Sergeant McCarthy uses some unorthodox tactics to bring in some sheep rustlers, while a new member of the beat gets the better of a jet-ski terrorizing dockland junkies. With Owen Teale, Helena Little and Brian McCauley. (Ceefax)

8.50 *News and Sport*. With Michael Sudrik. *Weather*

9.10 *Midnight Caller*. Watching *Howie*. Watching *Joe*. Late-night chat show host Jack Kilian comes to the aid of Devon King, the radio station's owner, when she becomes the 24-hour obsession of a wealthy electronics manufacturer who moves into an apartment directly opposite hers. With Gary Cole, Wendy Kilbourne and Timothy Daly. (Ceefax)

10.00 *David Allen*. David Allen takes a humorous look at people's everyday habits and mannerisms

10.30 *Film: The Mackintosh Man* (1973), starring Paul Newman, James Mason, Dominique Sanda and Ian Bannen. Espionage thriller about a British intelligence agent who, under the false identity of a first-class thief, sets himself up to be hired for a risky diamond robbery operation, in order to expose the powerful joint at the head of the gang. Directed by John Huston

12.05am *The All-Star Swing Festival*. Famous figures of the big band and swing era, including Count Basie, David Brubeck, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton and Earl Hines, come together in this star-studded gala session at New York's Lincoln Center (r)

12.55 *Weather*

ITV/LONDON

6.00 *TV-am* begins with *News* followed by *It's Saturday*. *Alvin Stardust* presents songs, stories and poems about horses (r) 7.00 *WAC* 50 Children's entertainment presented by Tommy Boyd and Michaela Strachan 8.30 *News* with Susan Grant

8.35 *Monomom* 2, introduced by Neil Buchanan, Tony Gregory and Gaby Roslin, begins with *The Real Ghostbusters* cartoon adventure. Later, pop group New Kids on the Block perform and there is a video of Tanita Tikaram's latest single

11.30 *The ITV Chart Show*. The *Village* Video slot is filled by *Scoti's Pictorial* 12.30 *The Muppet Show*: Farewell *Christmas*. The Immigration Department has plans to deport Grandpa to Transylvania - but they'll need to find him first.

1.00 *News* with Sue Carpenter. *Weather* 1.05 *LWT News* and *Weather*

1.10 *Sport & Grassroots*. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves review the week's football news and look back at highlights of the Littlewoods Cup fifth round games.

1.40 *Sportscasters*. Three new contestants test their sports knowledge in the quiz hosted by Dickie Davies.

2.10 *Coronation Street* (r) 3.05 *Matlock: The Doctors*. In this first episode of a new drama series focusing on the work of lawyer Matlock, he defends a doctor who is the prime suspect when an unpopular colleague is murdered. Starring Andy Griffith.

4.15 *Katts and Dogs*. *Boy Meets Dog*. Hank Katts, a graduate of the police academy, is assigned to the K-9 Corps and teamed up with an Alsatian named Rint. The pair's first case is to find Katts' stolen car. Starring Jesse Collins.

4.45 *Results Service* presented by Eton Welsby

5.05 *News* with Sue Carpenter. *Weather* 5.10 *LWT News* and *Weather*

5.15 *Baywatch: Heat Wave*. When record temperatures hit Los Angeles, Malibu beach is in even greater danger than usual. The lifeguards must be grateful for any extra help they can get, but the arrival of a former colleague only leads to trouble. Starring David Hasselhoff

6.10 *Blind Date*. *Blind Date*. Cupid once again, hoping to match this week's contestants with the man or woman of their dreams. (Oracle)

7.00 *News* (Ceefax) 1983, starring Roger Moore, Maud Adams and Louis Jordan. Bond is asked to investigate the death of fellow agent 009 in East Berlin, a mission which leads to an adventure involving a jewelled Fabergé egg, a circus, a female army unit, of course, a host of useful gadgets which get him out of sticky situations. Directed by John Glen. (Oracle)

8.25 *The Last Man*. Action and adventure with a team of detectives fighting crime on the streets of Hong Kong. The precinct's officers are kept busy trying to identify a man with a loss of memory, who comes to them clutching a knife covered in blood. As the investigation unfolds, they are horrified by what they discover. With Ray Lonnen, Mark McGarr, Dave King and Tzi Ma.

10.25 *News and Sport* and *Weather* 10.40 *LWT Weather*

10.45 *Abendganz*. Richard Dignane presents an unusual preview of the events he expects will occur during the 1990s. His guests include Juggler Steve Roper, a psychologist Shahid Malik.

11.45 *Dad's in Death*. Episode one of a two-part drama based on fact. Barbara Barlow's life changes dramatically when her son and a friend are caught in possession of heroin while in Malaysia. The penalty for the offence is death, a sentence which Barbara is determined to fight. Part two can be seen next Saturday. Starring Julie Christie, Hugh Grant and John Wood. Followed by *News* headlines

1.30am *Sport*. The continuing comic saga of the Campbell and the Tate families (r)

2.00 *American College Football* 4.00 *The Hit List*. *Waterman* and *Michaela Strachan* continue their tour of Britain's discos

5.00 *TV Morning News* with Anne Laurence. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

9.00 *Open University* 10.55 *Inc: The Charge of the Light Brigade* (1936, b/w) starring Enrol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland. Drama about the events leading to the catastrophic Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimea. Directed by Michael Curtiz

12.45 *In the Post*. The history of air mail (r) 1.10 *Training Dogs in the Woodhouse Way* (r)

1.35 *Backroads*. Tale of a young runaway girl who encounters an eccentric hobo who helps her to come to terms with her life. Starring Kimi Kinnear and David Thomson

2.00 *Shrikant*. Episode three of the Indian drama and Shrikant encounters the girl who is to change his life (in Hindi with English subtitles) (r)

2.40 *Film: The Treasure of Monte Cristo* (1950), starring Rory Calhoun and John Grason. Adventure about four fortune hunters who each hold a quarter of a map which holds the key to buried treasure on the island of Monte Cristo. Directed by Monty Bernman

4.10 *See Gypsy*. Story of a young woman who dreams about a magical underworld world. Starring Emma Crewe (r)

4.30 *Film: They Died with Their Boots On* (1941, b/w), starring Enrol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland and Anthony Quinn. Action-packed story about the life and times of General Custer. Directed by Raoul Walsh

6.50 *The Jack Benny Show* (b/w). With Mel Blanc and Lucille Stern

7.15 *News View* with Laurie Mayer and Jill Dando. *Weather*

8.00 *Rhythms of the World*. *Déjà Vu*. *Saint-Price* (see Choice)

8.50 *Saturday Night Takeaway*. *Clive James* and *Clive Anderson* and *Zsa Zsa Gabor* who discusses *American Justice*

9.35 *Making Out*. Episode three of the eight-part series about an electronics factory (r). (Ceefax)

10.25 *The Film Club*. Producer Lynda Myles introduces *Oliver Stone's* political thriller *Salvador* (1986), starring James Woods and Jesse Belushi. The true story of photojournalist Richard Boyle, a veteran of the wars in Vietnam, Cambodia, Central America and the Middle East who, in 1980, was sent to El Salvador and found himself witness to the ugly realities of US involvement in a country torn apart by ruthless death squads and nightmarish militia groups. Ends at 12.30am

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SUNDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

SATELLITE

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A murder without motive

Peter Waymark

In *The Man From the Pru* (BBC2, 10.15pm) the writer Robert Smith has fashioned a cogent drama from a puzzling 1931 murder in which a woman was battered to death in her gloomy little house in Liverpool. The husband, William Wallace, an insurance collector for the Prudential, was charged and found guilty. But the evidence was flimsy and though the marriage had its tensions, the prosecution could offer no motive for the crime. Superbly played by Jonathan Pryce, Wallace was an enigmatic person who displayed an extraordinary lack of emotion. Extraordinary that is to those unaware of his lifelong adherence to the precepts of stoicism. Smith's screenplay carefully establishes the shabby-genteel ambience of the couple whose social aspiration is considerably greater than the reality, and the director, Rob Roper, makes expressive use of dark alleys and swirling mist. Bowler-hatted and wing-collared, with a touch of Dr Crippen, Pryce, beautifully suggests Wallace's ambiguity. Murderer or innocent? You can never be sure.



Mystery: Wallace (Pryce) with his wife Julia (Anna Massey) (BBC2, 10.15pm)

RADIO CHOICE

Peter Daville

Had *Move the Orchestra* (Radio 4, 8.30pm) not been recorded in the best stereo imaginable, the BBC would have had to bang its head in shame because this is the story of the man who fathered stereophonic sound. Alan Blumlein was also the driving force behind the invention of radar and the world's first regular television service, and the most palatable thing about Barry Fox's tribute to the pioneer is that, although it is concerned almost entirely with technological breakthroughs, it does not talk over-technical heads. It also endears itself to me because it does not lay on its humour with a trowel, straightforwardly reporting that the man who assisted Blumlein in his historic 1933 "walking and talking" experiment in stereo sound was a certain Felix Trot.

BBC

8.50 **Favourite Walks**. Bill Oddie on Fair Isle (r).
9.15 **Articles of Faith**. *Crocodiles and Commitment* (r) 9.30 This is the Day from Glasgow's City Chambers.
10.00 **Bazaar**. Magazine series about living (r) 10.25 **Buonogiorno** Italian Italian for beginners (r).
10.50 **Europeans**. Sexual politics in Europe discussed by Chantal Cier and Elisabeth Badier (r) 11.20 **Spelling It Out**. Series to improve spelling, presented by Don Henderson (r). (Coefax) 11.30 Step up to Word Power. For adults with reading and writing difficulties.
11.55 **Snail Advice** on photographing children (r). (Coefax) 12.05 See Heart Magazine for the deal and deal-of-the-week.
12.30 **Country File**. The second part of a two-part report on the Soviet Union's agricultural problems.
12.55 **Weather**.
1.00 **News with Chris Lowe**. Followed by **Europeans?** Jonathan Dimbleby talks to Shadow Foreign Secretary Gerald Kaufman MP, about the Labour Party's change in attitude towards Europe.
2.00 **EastEnders** (r). (Coefax).
3.00 **Film: Ocean's Eleven** (1960), starring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr and Peter Lawford. Comedy about a plan to rob five Las Vegas casinos on one night. Directed by Lewis Milestone.
3.50 **The Clothes Show** includes a look at viewers' complaints about shopping in the high street; and the latest range of make-up available for black people.
5.30 **Country File** presented by Hugh Sault in Eglwys. (Coefax).
6.15 **It Doesn't Have To Hurt** Getting it the easy way. (Coefax).
6.40 **Songs of Praise** from the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Wexford. (Coefax).
7.15 **You Rang, M'Lord?** Upstairs, downstairs comedy series starring Sue Pollard, Michael Knowles and Paul Shane. (Coefax).
8.00 **Bergerac**. My Name is Sergeant Bergerac. Forced to vacate his office for a special mission, Customs and Excise officer, Jersey detective Jim Bergerac is being impersonated by a small-time crook. Starring John Nettles and Tony Robinson. (Coefax).
9.00 **Mastermind**. From the Victoria Room at Bristol University, Magnus Magnusson introduces four more contestants. Their specialist subjects are the history of brass bands and the poems of T. S. Eliot; battles fought on English soil 1065-1685; and the life and work of Antoine Lavoisier 1743-1794.
9.30 **The Life Line** discusses consumer affairs series.
10.15 **News with Michael Buerk**.
10.30 **Evermore**. The People Trade. Why wealthy Sri Lankan farmers are sending their children to live in Germany.
11.10 **Dear John**. USA. American comedy based on the British series. Tonight John faces a trial. The trial is the story of his wife's tale him they will have to pretend they are married so that their son can be admitted to a private Roman Catholic elementary school. Starring Jack and Robert Bly.
11.35 **One to One**. Sir Nicholas. Anne Nightingale talks to the former Battle and his long and successful military career.
12.00 **Midday**. The Chert Show (r).
1.00 **Police Story** (1975), starring Alan Delon and Jean-Louis Trintignant. Roger Moore holds the record for catching a criminal. Emile Buisson is a killer responsible for many murders and robberies. The paths of these two professionalists cross in a head-on collision. Directed by Jacques Deray.
3.30 **Hilary's Adventure**. Explores look for the lost inca city of Machu Picchu.
4.00 **The Silk Road**. How the world outside China discovered the secrets of silk.
5.00 **ITN Morning News**. Ends at 5.00.

ITV LONDON

6.00 **TV-art** begins with *Good Morning* presented by Ulrika Jonsson 7.00 **It's Stardust**. Songs and stories about the alphabet introduced by Alvin Stardust.
8.00 **David Frost on Sunday**. The guests include John Prescott and the newspapers are reviewed by Harriet Harman and Andrew Neil.
8.55 **The Disney Club**.
10.45 **Link** examines the controversial issue of sterilization without consent.
11.00 **Morning Worship** from St Peter and John's Roman Catholic Church in Wolverhampton.
12.00 **Encounter**. Anglican Anne Gifford joins 35 young people on a week's retreat at a Roman Catholic church centre in Criccieth.
12.30 **My Little Pony**. Part three 12.40 **Police 5** presented by Shaw Taylor.
12.55 **LWT News** and weather.
1.00 **News with Sue Carpenter**.
1.10 **Eyewitness** includes an examination of the issue of artificial insemination for single women.
2.00 **A Tribute to Gordon Jackson**. A repeat of *An Invitation to Remember* in which the actor is interviewed by Brian Johnson. Followed at 2.30 by an episode of *Upstairs, Downstairs*.
3.30 **The Match**. Norwich City v Manchester United.
5.35 **Bullseye**. Darts and general knowledge game.
6.05 **News**. Real life programmes involving Scottish rescue organizations.
6.30 **News and weather**. 6.55 **LWT News** and weather.
7.00 **Highway**. Sir Harry Secombe.
7.15 **Wish Me Luck**. German Commander Stuckler is outraged by the rescue of the priest, Rex, and issues a challenge to pose a problem for Kit and Renard.
8.15 **The Two of Us**. Stacey Business. Fed up with their jobs, Ashley and Elaine decide to try their hand at running a take-away pizza business. With Nicholas Lyndhurst and Janet Dibley. (Oracle).
8.45 **News with Sue Carpenter**.
9.05 **Agatha Christie's Poirot**. The Last Minute. Hastings is caught up in the latest case, Monopoly, and is determined to prove to Poirot that skill is the secret of winning. But a visit to his bank leads Poirot to discover that there are London streets not featured on the Monopoly board - and different skills are required. With David Suchet and Hugh Fraser. (Oracle).
10.05 **Tarrant on TV**. The first of a new series presented by Chris Tarrant looking at television cultures of other countries.
10.35 **The South Bank Show**. Melvyn Bragg looks at one of the great screen partnerships - Sir David Lean and Robert Bly.
11.35 **One to One**. Sir Nicholas. Anne Nightingale talks to the former Battle and his long and successful military career.
12.00 **Midday**. The Chert Show (r).
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5.00 **ITN Morning News**. Ends at 5.00.

BBC 2

7.30 **Playdays** (r) 7.50 **Jimbo** and the **Jettons** (r) 8.25 **Spoggy** 8.55 **Peddlington Special** (r) 9.30 **Comers** (r) 9.35 **Thundercats** (r).
9.55 **Blue Peter Omnibus** (r) 10.45 **What's That Noise?** 11.10 **Boxpops** 11.40 **The Ozone**.
12.00 **Westminster Week** includes Lord Young discussing his role in British Aerospace's acquisition of the Rover group.
12.35 **Around Westminster**.
1.00 **Belly Boon**. Cartoon 1.05 **Training Dogs the Woodhouse Way** (r).
1.30 **40 Minutes**. Daring, Lari's Start up an Airline (r). (Coefax).
2.10 **Reportage Update**.
3.00 **Police 5** (r) 3.30 **Police 5** (r) 3.55 **Police 5** (r) 4.00 **Police 5** (r) 4.10 **Police 5** (r) 4.15 **Police 5** (r) 4.20 **Police 5** (r) 4.25 **Police 5** (r) 4.30 **Police 5** (r) 4.35 **Police 5** (r) 4.40 **Police 5** (r) 4.45 **Police 5** (r) 4.50 **Police 5** (r) 4.55 **Police 5** (r) 5.00 **Police 5** (r) 5.05 **Police 5** (r) 5.10 **Police 5** (r) 5.15 **Police 5** (r) 5.20 **Police 5** (r) 5.25 **Police 5** (r) 5.30 **Police 5** (r) 5.35 **Police 5** (r) 5.40 **Police 5** (r) 5.45 **Police 5** (r) 5.50 **Police 5** (r) 5.55 **Police 5** (r) 6.00 **Police 5** (r) 6.05 **Police 5** (r) 6.10 **Police 5** (r) 6.15 **Police 5** (r) 6.20 **Police 5** (r) 6.25 **Police 5** (r) 6.30 **Police 5** (r) 6.35 **Police 5** (r) 6.40 **Police 5** (r) 6.45 **Police 5** (r) 6.50 **Police 5** (r) 6.55 **Police 5** (r) 7.00 **Police 5** (r) 7.05 **Police 5** (r) 7.10 **Police 5** (r) 7.15 **Police 5** (r) 7.20 **Police 5** (r) 7.25 **Police 5** (r) 7.30 **Police 5** (r) 7.35 **Police 5** (r) 7.40 **Police 5** (r) 7.45 **Police 5** (r) 7.50 **Police 5** (r) 7.55 **Police 5** (r) 8.00 **Police 5** (r) 8.05 **Police 5** (r) 8.10 **Police 5** (r) 8.15 **Police 5** (r) 8.20 **Police 5** (r) 8.25 **Police 5** (r) 8.30 **Police 5** (r) 8.35 **Police 5** (r) 8.40 **Police 5** (r) 8.45 **Police 5** (r) 8.50 **Police 5** (r) 8.55 **Police 5** (r) 9.00 **Police 5** (r) 9.05 **Police 5** (r) 9.10 **Police 5** (r) 9.15 **Police 5** (r) 9.20 **Police 5** (r) 9.25 **Police 5** (r) 9.30 **Police 5** (r) 9.35 **Police 5** (r) 9.40 **Police 5** (r) 9.45 **Police 5** (r) 9.50 **Police 5** (r) 9.55 **Police 5** (r) 10.00 **Police 5** (r) 10.05 **Police 5** (r) 10.10 **Police 5** (r) 10.15 **Police 5** (r) 10.20 **Police 5** (r) 10.25 **Police 5** (r) 10.30 **Police 5** (r) 10.35 **Police 5** (r) 10.40 **Police 5** (r) 10.45 **Police 5** (r) 10.50 **Police 5** (r) 10.55 **Police 5** (r) 11.00 **Police 5** (r) 11.05 **Police 5** (r) 11.10 **Police 5** (r) 11.15 **Police 5** (r) 11.20 **Police 5** (r) 11.25 **Police 5** (r) 11.30 **Police 5** (r) 11.35 **Police 5** (r) 11.40 **Police 5** (r) 11.45 **Police 5** (r) 11.50 **Police 5** (r) 11.55 **Police 5** (r) 12.00 **Police 5** (r) 12.05 **Police 5** (r) 12.10 **Police 5** (r) 12.15 **Police 5** (r) 12.20 **Police 5** (r) 12.25 **Police 5** (r) 12.30 **Police 5** (r) 12.35 **Police 5** (r) 12.40 **Police 5** (r) 12.45 **Police 5** (r) 12.50 **Police 5** (r) 12.55 **Police 5** (r) 13.00 **Police 5** (r) 13.05 **Police 5** (r) 13.10 **Police 5** (r) 13.15 **Police 5** (r) 13.20 **Police 5** (r) 13.25 **Police 5** (r) 13.30 **Police 5** (r) 13.35 **Police 5** (r) 13.40 **Police 5** (r) 13.45 **Police 5** (r) 13.50 **Police 5** (r) 13.55 **Police 5** (r) 14.00 **Police 5** (r) 14.05 **Police 5** (r) 14.10 **Police 5** (r) 14.15 **Police 5** (r) 14.20 **Police 5** (r) 14.25 **Police 5** (r) 14.30 **Police 5** (r) 14.35 **Police 5** (r) 14.40 **Police 5** (r) 14.45 **Police 5** (r) 14.50 **Police 5** (r) 14.55 **Police 5** (r) 15.00 **Police 5** (r) 15.05 **Police 5** (r) 15.10 **Police 5** (r) 15.15 **Police 5** (r) 15.20 **Police 5** (r) 15.25 **Police 5** (r) 15.30 **Police 5** (r) 15.35 **Police 5** (r) 15.40 **Police 5** (r) 15.45 **Police 5** (r) 15.50 **Police 5** (r) 15.55 **Police 5** (r) 16.00 **Police 5** (r) 16.05 **Police 5** (r) 16.10 **Police 5** (r) 16.15 **Police 5** (r) 16.20 **Police 5** (r) 16.25 **Police 5** (r) 16.30 **Police 5** (r) 16.35 **Police 5** (r) 16.40 **Police 5** (r) 16.45 **Police 5** (r) 16.50 **Police 5** (r) 16.55 **Police 5** (r) 17.00 **Police 5** (r) 17.05 **Police 5** (r) 17.10 **Police 5** (r) 17.15 **Police 5** (r) 17.20 **Police 5** (r) 17.25 **Police 5** (r) 17.30 **Police 5** (r) 17.35 **Police 5** (r) 17.40 **Police 5** (r) 17.45 **Police 5** (r) 17.50 **Police 5** (r) 17.55 **Police 5** (r) 18.00 **Police 5** (r) 18.05 **Police 5** (r) 18.10 **Police 5** (r) 18.15 **Police 5** (r) 18.20 **Police 5** (r) 18.25 **Police 5** (r) 18.30 **Police 5** (r) 18.35 **Police 5** (r) 18.40 **Police 5** (r) 18.45 **Police 5** (r) 18.50 **Police 5** (r) 18.55 **Police 5** (r) 19.00 **Police 5** (r) 19.05 **Police 5** (r) 19.10 **Police 5** (r) 19.15 **Police 5** (r) 19.20 **Police 5** (r) 19.25 **Police 5** (r) 19.30 **Police 5** (r) 19.35 **Police 5** (r) 19.40 **Police 5** (r) 19.45 **Police 5** (r) 19.50 **Police 5** (r) 19.55 **Police 5** (r) 20.00 **Police 5** (r) 20.05 **Police 5** (r) 20.10 **Police 5** (r) 20.15 **Police 5** (r) 20.20 **Police 5** (r) 20.25 **Police 5** (r) 20.30 **Police 5** (r) 20.35 **Police 5** (r) 20.40 **Police 5** (r) 20.45 **Police 5** (r) 20.50 **Police 5** (r) 20.55 **Police 5** (r) 21.00 **Police 5** (r) 21.05 **Police 5** (r) 21.10 **Police 5** (r) 21.15 **Police 5** (r) 21.20 **Police 5** (r) 21.25 **Police 5** (r) 21.30 **Police 5** (r) 21.35 **Police 5** (r) 21.40 **Police 5** (r) 21.45 **Police 5** (r) 21.50 **Police 5** (r) 21.

Ready for Pakistan's raging white waters

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SL RM
waters
HIGH ROUTES

THE TIMES MONEY

SECTION 2

SATURDAY JANUARY 20 1990

17

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6455 (-0.0005)
W German mark
2.8121 (+0.0032)
Exchange index
88.1 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1898.0 (+3.8)
FT-SE 100
2335.0 (-1.9)
USM (Daimler)
157.30 (+0.17)
Market report, page 20

Birch leads new trust from BZW

Mr Philip Birch, chairman of Ward White until its hostile takeover by Boots last August, is chairman of a new trust from Barclays de Zoete Wedd. BZW is making its first foray into the investment trust market with a trust linked to UK convertibles.

The BZW Convertible Investment Trust aims to raise £70 million from institutions and individuals.

Subscriptions opened yesterday, and close on January 30. Dealings are due to begin on February 8. A full prospectus will appear in *The Times* on Monday and the prospectus will be analysed in the *Temps* column of that morning.

A series of rights issues are likely to come from investment trust companies in the next few weeks, in an effort to bring premiums down. A number of European investment trusts are also on the way. *Family Money*, page 23

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2674.27 (+7.88)
Nikkei Average 9868.54 (+107.08)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 2778.29 (+4.82)
Singapore
CEA Tendency 113.6 (+0.4)
Sydney: AO 1873.9 (-3.9)
Frankfurt DAX 1772.68 (-5.91)
Russex
General 6449.04 (-7.81)
Paris: CAC 335.06 (-0.47)
Zurich SCA 812.7 (+0.0)
London
FT-100 2335.0 (-1.9)
FT-1000 2335.0 (-1.9)
FT-10000 2335.0 (-1.9)
FT-100000 2335.0 (-1.9)
Recent issues
Closing prices
Page 18
Page 21

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

BRIS: A MacAlpine 354p (+13p)
Guinness 575p (+13p)
Allied Irish 275p (+12p)
Savoy Hotels 'A' 903p (+20p)
Borland 787p (+50p)
Harland & Wolff 469p (+12p)
Hoskins Group 327p (+55p)
Logica 342p (+18p)
Microfocus 512p (+10p)
Ridit 507p (+12p)
Laird Prop 507p (+12p)
Satchell & Satchell 245p (+14p)
Exp Co Louisiana 294p (+10p)
LAWCO 574p (+11p)
Henderson Admin 815p (+10p)

FALLS

Securitor 925p (-10p)
Wellcome 703p (-12p)
Rechem 507p (-145p)
Data Electric 600p (-11p)
FKB 165p (-27p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 12.5% (+1.5p)
3-month eligible 14.1% (+1.4p)
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8.75%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.74-7.72%
30-year bonds 9.7% (+0.97p)

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.6455
£ DM1.7090
£ Sfr1.5143
£ FF1.3552
£ Yen239.91
£ Yen145.55
£ Index88.1
ECU 50.724048 SDR 50.725284
ECU1.581123 SDR1.251151

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$410.80 pm \$409.85
Close \$405.75-410.25 (\$249.00-248.50)
New York
Comex \$411.10-411.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) - \$19.70 bbl (\$19.45)
Dutchies latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia	50.00	50.00
Austria	20.00	20.00
Belgium	67.75	67.75
Canada	11.28	11.28
Denmark	6.86	6.86
France	2.25	2.25
Germany	2.25	2.25
Greece	254.50	254.50
Hong Kong	13.46	13.46
India	21.80	21.80
Japan	225.00	225.00
Netherlands	3.25	3.25
Norway	11.32	11.32
Portugal	208.25	208.25
South Africa	4.50	4.50
Spain	168.25	168.25
Sweden	10.54	10.54
Switzerland	2.80	2.80
Thailand	45.55	45.55
Turkey	1.25	1.25
Yugoslavia	Refer	Refer

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 118.5 (November)

December inflation rate beats market expectations with 7.7%

Bank loans soar to £10.3bn

By Colin Narbrough
Economics Correspondent

Bank of England figures showing that sterling lending more than doubled last month to £10.3 billion signalled the beginnings of a rebound in the economy. The news sent an already nervous stock market into retreat, with the FT-SE 100 index shedding more than 17 points before recovering to close only 1.9 down.

But better-than-expected retail prices data lent support to the view held by Mr John Major, the Chancellor, that inflation has stabilised, and helped to assuage fears that interest rates might have to be raised again. Any relief from the

inflation figures was largely cancelled out by figures showing a jump in bank and building society lending last month to a seasonally adjusted £10.3 billion. This compared with a modest £4.8 billion in November.

The retail price index rose only a seasonally adjusted 0.3 per cent to 118.8 (base 1980) last month, giving an unchanged year-on-year rise of 7.7 per cent, but the bank lending data, together with money supply and consumer spending figures, appeared to signal a setback for efforts aimed at cooling down the economy.

City forecasters had expected a rise in the RPI to 7.9 per cent, or

even 8 per cent, fuelling pay demands still further at a crucial moment and threatening to wreck the Government's anti-inflation strategy.

But the important underlying rate - RPI excluding mortgage interest payments - also held steady, showing a 6.1 per cent year-on-year rise for the third successive month.

Though the inflation rate was unchanged last month, the RPI rose by an average 7.8 per cent last year - the highest rate for seven years. In his autumn statement, Mr Major forecast 7.5 per cent in the final quarter.

While price changes in the pipeline point to a possible dip in

the inflation rate in the next month or so, many economists fear that it is likely to stay above 7 per cent for much of the year before dropping substantially.

The chances of achieving Mr Major's forecast of 5.75 per cent inflation in the final quarter are regarded as limited.

According to the Bank of England, the bank lending figure was distorted by several factors, including the privatisation of water, new schedules for some corporate tax payments, interest debiting and lively takeover activity.

Economists also thought the figures overstated the lending situation and saw an underlying

cooling, despite the outward appearance of a lending surge.

The narrow money supply measure, M0, showed a worrying seasonally adjusted rise of 6.0 per cent annually, but this movement outside the Treasury's 1-5 per cent target growth range had been flagged in weekly Bank figures.

Other data showed consumer spending rising by 1.2 per cent between the third and fourth quarters to stand 3.5 per cent above the final quarter of 1988. This gave a preliminary full figure for 1989 of £270.9 billion, a rise of almost 4.5 per cent on the previous year.

The value of this series has been widely questioned and the Central

Statistical Office has decided to cease publishing them.

The batch of economic indicators helped sterling to soften from its best for the day, but it closed at \$8.1 on its trade-weighted index, unchanged from Thursday's close.

Gilt-edged securities dipped on the lending data, only to rebound later. Money market rates edged up slightly.

The CSO cited sharp increases in food prices, the highest since May 1984, as a main factor behind the December RPI rise. The CSO expects further food price rises but housing costs should go down in the next two months.

Fears grow for Lowndes as rescue package talks continue

Magnet's buyout team paid £350m too much for firm

By Gillian Bowditch

Magnet, the kitchen retailer, which has put together a rescue package for its £629 million management buyout, revealed yesterday that the buyout team paid £350 million too much for the business.

The news came as bankers tried desperately to save Lowndes Queensway, the furniture group, which appears to be on the brink of insolvency. Magnet posted a document to shareholders yesterday, giving details of the rescue package. In the balance sheet of the Magnet buyout vehicle, the £665 million investment in the business has been written down to £304 million. The balance sheet now shows a £266 million deficiency of net assets.

Some £560 million in loans have been committed for a period of three years, while £200 million of debt repayments have been deferred. But the rescue package has little scope for flexibility and is dependent of sales increasing and the sale and leaseback programme continuing.

Mr Tom Duxbury's resignation as chairman has been confirmed. He receives a £125,000 pay off and is relieved of his obligation to

purchase further shares. Mr John Foulkes, Magnet's managing director, who joined the group last August, gets a salary of £200,000 a year. He also receives a fixed bonus of £1 million if the buyout vehicle is floated, sold or becomes insolvent before December 1991. If it is sold, floated or wound up before December 1992, he receives a fixed bonus of £2 million.

The document also publishes the group's results for the first time. The group forecast profits of £72.7 million for the year to April 1989 but the actual profit was £45.9 million. Turnover for the year to April fell from £375.6 million to £369.3 million.

Mr Albert King, the former finance director of Magnet who is suing for wrongful dismissal, said in a statement: "It was apparent from the outset that the accounting systems were grossly inadequate for a company the size of Magnet. I implemented, after careful planning, major organizational changes and systems improvements. Under my stewardship, the company's accounting vastly improved. The profit estimate of the company for the year ended

April 1 1989, which appeared in the documents relating to the management buyout, was approved by both Arthur Young, the company's auditor, and Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank. When I last performed my duties as a director these figures were unchanged and there was no question of any audit qualification."

Magnet Home Improvement's results for the six months to September 1989 show that sales were down 16 per cent. There was a £6.67 million operating loss compared to a £2.3 million profit. After property profits and exceptional items, the loss for the period was £26.5 million compared with a profit of £39.6 million. Turnover fell from £167 million to £141 million.

Meanwhile, Lowndes Queensway was locked in meetings with its bankers and lawyers yesterday afternoon as fears grew that a solution to the group's financial problems was becoming more difficult to find. Bankers have been trying to put together a £70 million rescue package all week to save the company from insolvency.



Resignation accepted: Tom Duxbury receives a £125,000 payoff on stepping down at Magnet

Mr James Gulliver, the group's chairman, is believed to have resigned and been replaced by Mr Norman Ireland, a non-executive director. On Thursday, Lowndes outlined a plan to branch managers which involved the closure of 40 per cent of the group's outlets and could have led to the loss of up to 2,000 jobs. Under the scheme outlined Lowndes would keep 79 per cent of its selling space, 84 per cent of its sales and most of its profits.

But it is believed that even this drastic measure may not be enough to save the group. Under the scheme outlined to managers the closures would involve:

- Sixty-one Queensway in-town stores, 16 Queensway out-of-town stores.
- Fifty-four Carpetland out-of-town stores and 10 Carpetland in-town stores.
- Five General George Carpet stores in Scotland, one out-of-town and four in town.

Rechem price tumbles on warning

By Martin Waller

Shares in Rechem Environmental Services, the toxic waste disposal group in the news last summer over a shipment of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), plummeted 155p to 498p yesterday when it issued a profits warning.

A six-month delay in opening its electric hearth incinerator in Pontypool and problems in the scheduling of waste incineration in November and December meant profits for the second half to end-March would now be lower than in the same period last financial year, the company said.

But results for the full year would still show an increase.

This effectively brackets pre-tax profits for the current year between £8.75 million and £9.8 million, against analysts' estimates of about £11 million.

Mr Paul Kaye, the finance director, said Rechem's public relations difficulties last summer had exacerbated the problem.

It had diverted management's attention from their other responsibilities.

And Mr Kaye branded the share price collapse as "a typical stock market over-reaction."

The Rechem price was around 500p in June, but rose sharply in the last two months of the year on the back of the "green boom" and the Government's proposed environmental legislation.

Mr Kaye added that the various difficulties would not spill over into the next financial year.

Dominion calls in receiver

Dominion International, the troubled financial services and property group built up by Mr Max Lewinson before his departure last August, has called in the receiver.

A statement said "strenuous efforts" had been made to secure either a rescue package or a corporate restructuring, to salvage the maximum value for shareholders.

Its bankers, with the support of the board, had decided to call in the receiver, but it was expected that certain subsidiaries would be able to continue trading profitably.

Dominion, whose chairman, Lord Barnett, and four other directors, resigned last year, had its shares suspended at 52p in September.

De Haan family bids £54m to take Saga Group private

By Melinda Wittstock

Saga Group, the over-60s holiday tour operator, is going private after the agreed acquisition by the founding De Haan family of the 37 per cent minority holding it does not already own.

The De Haans, led by Mr Roger de Haan, the Saga chairman, and backed by the company's independent directors, are offering minority shareholders 300p a share cash. The company is busy diversifying into insurance, publishing and retirement homes after being hit by the deteriorating US and British holiday market.

The bid, which values Saga at £54.3 million and puts it on a generous exit multiple of 20.1 times earnings, coincides

with a profits forecast below market expectations of at least £5 million. Saga, which arranges holidays for 250,000 elderly people, expects pre-tax profits of £4.1 million for the year to end-January, a marginal increase of £100,000 over the previous year.

Saga blamed the flat profits on worries about the economy and air safety.

Mr Roger de Haan and his brother Peter, Saga's finance director, said the return of the company to private status would allow it more flexibility to implement a diversification strategy that has "a time horizon and a risk profile inappropriate for a publicly-listed company."

Saga's independent direc-

tors, advised by County NatWest, intend to accept the offer in respect of their joint 0.35 per cent holdings and have called on other minority shareholders to do the same. Mr Tim Bull and Mr Jerry Foster will remain on the Saga board, while Mr Robert Levine, a non-executive director and the vice president of US Tobacco, will leave.

The offer, at a 32.2 per cent premium to the 227p mid-market price of Saga shares before the family declared its intentions a few days before Christmas, is considered to be more than the probable market price for Saga shares in the short or medium term. Saga shares were yesterday unchanged at 294p.

US casino operator puts down £30m

Mecca cashes in chips at Clermont

By Melinda Wittstock

Mecca Leisure, Britain's biggest leisure company, has finally found a buyer for The Clermont Club, the exclusive Mayfair casino that it put up on the auction block last October along with Maxim's, its other high-rolling casino.

Bally Manufacturing Corporation, the American fruit machine and casino operator, has offered £30 million for The Clermont, one of Europe's most prestigious gambling clubs, whose patrons have included Sir James Goldsmith, Lord Lucan and the Sultan of Brunei.

The sale of The Clermont - acquired in Mecca's hard-fought £750 million takeover of the much-larger Pleasureman more than a year ago - is conditional on Bally gaining consent from the British Gaming Board and the approval of the Nevada Gaming Authority.

But Mr Michael Guthrie, Mecca chairman and chief executive, said that

he did not believe that there would be a problem in obtaining a casino operating licence for Bally, even though the Gaming Board has never yet granted a licence to a foreign operator.

Mecca, which had said that it was looking to sell both The Clermont and Maxim's for a combined £60 million, yesterday said that it was very pleased with Bally's offer, which puts The Clermont on a generous exit multiple of 15 times.

The Clermont's assets have a book value of £24.5 million, with estimated net profit for 1989 of about £3 million.

Mecca will use the cash from the Bally deal, negotiated with Mr Nat Solomon, a Bally director and former Pleasureman chairman, to help to reduce £280 million of borrowings left over from its acquisition of Pleasureman.

Mr Guthrie again emphasized that Mecca would not sell Maxim's unless a

suitable price were offered. Analysts believe that Maxim's, based in Kensington, could fetch between £20 million and £25 million.

Mecca, a casino market leader in Britain, with 27 licences in all, plans to retain its three other mid-market London casinos - The Connoisseur, The Gloucester Sporting Club and The Victoria Sporting Club.

Mr Guthrie said that the middle market was far less volatile and a more steady source of income than the top-of-the-line clubs, which have been suffering from a decline in the number of Middle Eastern, Japanese and American high-rollers dropping by for a gamble.

Bally, which operates four casinos and hotels in the US and runs a fitness centre business, is also one of the biggest amusement machine operators in the US and Germany. It reported turnover in 1988 of \$1.9 billion (about £1.1 bn).

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Agreed link will strengthen financial muscle for joint ventures

French to lift McAlpine stake

By Matthew Bond

Alfred McAlpine has become the latest construction company to bring a European partner on to its share register to beef up its financial muscle. Dumez, the French construction group, is to increase its present 4.7 per cent stake to 12 per cent, the maximum agreed with the McAlpine board. M Jean-Paul Parayre, Dumez's president, has been invited to join the McAlpine board.

At current share prices, Dumez's investment would be

worth more than £14 million. The move cements a co-operation agreement reached by the two companies, the main effect of which will be to allow McAlpine to pursue larger construction contracts in Britain, while offering Dumez a way into the British construction market.

Mr Bobby McAlpine, the chairman, welcomed the deal. "This agreement will enable us to tackle larger projects which might not have been practicable on our own, and will enable us to pursue more

vigorously the partially or completely privately funded developments where contractors are increasingly being asked to take part in the financing."

The partners will also be looking for new opportunities in the United States and in minerals. Jean Lefebvre, Dumez's road building associate, is also party to the agreement.

The partners say that the agreement will operate to "a more limited extent" in continental Europe.

The increasing need for

construction companies to be able to draw on greater internal resources - particularly for infrastructure projects - has prompted both agreed deals, along the line of yesterday's, and more hostile solutions, such as the bid for Higgs and Hill by YJ Lovell.

Those opting for the agreed route with a continental partner include Birse, which last year revealed an agreement with Billfinger & Berger, the West German group, as part of its flotation strategy.

B&B took a 15 per cent

stake in the company. Meanwhile, Hochtief, another West German group, has a 23 per cent stake in Rush & Tompkins.

Other continental groups have opted for greater degree of control.

Société Générale d'Entreprise, the French company, last year took a 52 per cent stake in Norwest Holst, while Hollandsche Beton Groep, the Dutch group, has taken over Kyle Stewart and Edmund Nuttall, two private British companies.

American Medical reports £50m loss

By Melinda Wittstock

American Medical International Corp has reported a first quarter pre-tax loss of \$82.6 million (£50.2 million) after charging \$128.2 million in one-off merger costs.

The pre-tax loss for the three months to end-November compares to a \$640,000 pre-tax profit in the same period in 1988, which included \$13 million in additional medical malpractice provisions and \$11 million in lease buyout costs.

American Medical managed to increase its net turnover by 12.6 per cent to \$728.2 million. It reported a net after-tax loss of \$33.7 million, against \$440,000 profit last time, as well as a loss per share of 76 cents (1 cent earnings).

American Medical is talking to a number of would-be buyers for its 65 per cent stake in AMI Healthcare, its British private hospital subsidiary, as part of a plan to sell off all foreign assets after a recent \$3 million buyout led by IMA Acquisition Corporation.

Mr Harry Gray, the chairman and chief executive, said the results showed a strong cashflow before merger costs. He is confident American Medical will generate enough cash to service its \$1.4 million debt and fund capital expenditure. It managed to reduce costs by 22.7 per cent.

The group has so far sold one hospital in Florida and another in Singapore, while putting up 12 other US acute care and psychiatric hospitals for sale. Mr Gray said negotiations were proceeding well for the sale of its AMI Healthcare stake.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lovell 'facing defeat' in Higgs and Hill bid

The hard-fought £162 million battle for control of Higgs and Hill closes at 1pm today, with the bidder, YJ Lovell, the fellow building contractor, facing apparent defeat. Sir Brian Hill, the Higgs chairman, said he was "quietly confident" of his shareholding. The higher of the two offers values each Higgs share at almost 482p, against a market price of 413p yesterday.

Mr Tony Williams, building analyst at UBS-Phillips & Drew, said: "They are not going to get it. The logic of the share price movements, with Lovell going up and Higgs going down, points to the conclusion that they are not going to get control." The bid had been "a bit too big and a bit too ambitious" for Lovell at this stage in its development, he believed. The company's error had been not to bid enough and not to offer a full cash alternative.

LPA sparks to £871,000

LPA Industries, the industrial electrical accessories company, lifted pre-tax profits by 7.5 per cent to £871,000 in the year to end-September, on turnover up 12.3 per cent to £7.45 million. Earnings per share rose from 6.06p to 6.40p, and the final dividend is improved from 1.6p to 1.7p, making 3.2p for the year, compared with 3p. The net asset per share climbs from 54.94p to 59.03p.

Serif Cowells in £2m deal

Serif Cowells, the USM games distributor which markets Trivial Pursuit and has the sole rights to distribute Nintendo video games, is expanding into the growing market for electronic learning games and books with the purchase of the Questrom range of branded products for £2 million. Serif has acquired them from Bidwell Ltd, a subsidiary of Price Stern Sloan Inc of California.

Texaco up to \$2.4bn

Texaco, whose British subsidiary, Texaco UK, is a big producer from the North Sea and has the fourth largest share of the British petrol market, reports that worldwide net income for the fourth quarter of 1989 slipped to \$287 million (£174.6 million), or 99 cents per share, compared with \$296 million (\$1.21) in 1988. However, net income for the year climbed to \$2.41 billion (\$9.12) compared with \$1.3 billion (\$5.35).

Fourth-quarter results for 1989 included charges of \$255 million for the establishment of financial reserves relating to the company's environmental programmes as well as a reduction in the valuation of an investment in an offshore Californian production facility.

Dale Electric profits hit

Dale Electric, the power system manufacturer, has seen its pre-tax profits fall to £710,000 from £1.2 million at the interim stage to October. Turnover improved from £24.2 million to £29.9 million in the period but pressure on overseas margins and high interest charges had an adverse effect. The interim dividend stays at 2p on earnings per share of 3.66p (6.04p).

DC Cook falls to £401,000

DC Cook continued to find it difficult to sell cars in the six months to end-October when pre-tax profits fell £3.8 million to £401,000 on turnover of £118.9 million, up from £108.9 million. The interim dividend (1.33p) will be paid on earnings per share of 0.94p compared with 0.88p last time. Its USM shares were unchanged at 41p.

Low & Bonar link-up

Low & Bonar, the Scottish packaging and specialist textiles group, has set up a joint venture with the Constantia Group of Austria, creating a link with one of Europe's big packaging groups. Bonar Constantia, a jointly-owned company, will own L&B's flexible packaging business interests together with Constantia Group's British subsidiary, Teich Aluminium. This deal involves L&B selling technology, plus a stake in its business, for \$5 million. Constantia will subscribe £2.3 million in cash for additional shares which will bring its shareholding to 50 per cent. Bonar Teich Flexible, as it will shortly be called, will then acquire Teich Aluminium (UK) for £300,000. L&B's shares firmed by 1p to 184p on the news.

Linter seeks debt moratorium

From Our Correspondent, Sydney

Mr Abe Goldberg's Linter Group, Australia's largest textile and clothing company, was yesterday seeking a moratorium on more than A\$5700 million (\$352 million) of debt.

Mr Goldberg is known in Britain as instigator of two bid attempts for Tootal, the textile group, in 1985 and again early last year. His unwelcome advances were foisted after Coats Vytella entered the fray with its own merger proposal. Mr Goldberg accepted Coats's offer for his 24.5 per cent stake in Tootal and walked away with a £7 million profit.

But 1989 did not end so happily, and the fate of Linter now hinges on two emergency meetings next week with its bankers. Mr Goldberg will speak to anxious creditors in Melbourne on Tuesday and Sydney on Wednesday after admitting that Linter was facing "significant losses" this year and was unable to meet its debts. Linter, a private company, sports some of

Australia's leading clothing brands.

Several of its 40 lenders are believed to be on the verge of calling in loans, which could force it into receivership or provisional liquidation. Central to the banks' worries are millions of dollars in loans channelled by Linter to Brick and Pipe, the building materials producer Mr Goldberg acquired last June for A\$5390 million.

Linter executives were unavailable to comment yesterday, but KPMG Peat Marwick Hungerford, the accountant, confirmed it had prepared a report on Linter's finances.

Major lenders include ANZ, Westpac, National Australia Bank, and overseas institutions. In a letter to bankers, Mr Goldberg said Peat Marwick had found a "substantial deficiency" of assets against liabilities, after providing for losses on loans to associated companies.



Abe Goldberg: preparing to face anxious creditors

Bond receivership a 'wicked injustice'

From David Tweed, Sydney

Bond Brewing Holdings' plunge into receivership was a "wicked injustice" which had caused irreparable and incalculable damage to the company and its subsidiaries, the Victorian Supreme Court was told.

Mr Allan Myers, QC, for Bond Brewing, said, in his closing address yesterday, that Mr Justice Beach had been misled by not being given all the details relating to Bond Brewing's loan agreement with a bank syndicate which had an A\$880 million (£426.5 million) exposure to Bond Brewing.

He also said the appointment of receivers should not have been made as an indefinite order, but as an interim order only so as to preserve the value of the assets.

The court is nearing the end of the third week's hearing into applications

by Bond Corporation Holdings, the Bond Brewing parent company, to have the appointment of Mr David Crawford and Mr Charles Fear as receiver-managers set aside.

A receiver was appointed on December 29 at the request of the National Australia Bank (NAB).

Santiago (Reuters) - The Chilean Telephone Company (CTC), whose majority shareholder is Mr Alan Bond, reported a profit of \$95.6 million (£58.3 million) in 1989, up from \$63.5 million the previous year. Mr Mark Rabidge, the chief executive,

said, CTC revenues grew to \$268.6 million from \$209.3 million in 1988. Bond Corp Chile holds a 51 per cent stake in the company. CTC invested \$200 million in 1989 and installed 188,292 new telephone lines as part of a five-year \$1.3 billion expansion.

Mr Myers said a receiver should never have been appointed for an unsecured creditor. To do so in this case would set a precedent which would totally change the interpretation of commercial law.

He said the line was firmly drawn between secured and unsecured cred-

itors - "between those who have property interests and those who don't."

"Your Honour is taking a most novel step - the banks are unsecured creditors. They are absolutely, wholly and solely without any security whatsoever. If a mere unsecured creditor could come along

said, CTC revenues grew to \$268.6 million from \$209.3 million in 1988. Bond Corp Chile holds a 51 per cent stake in the company. CTC invested \$200 million in 1989 and installed 188,292 new telephone lines as part of a five-year \$1.3 billion expansion.

and have a receiver appointed, that would be a very extraordinary thing.

"The fact of your Honour's order is even worse than requiring us to pay the A\$880 million because all of our assets are subject to the order.

"The order has worked a wicked injustice to Bond Brewing and it's

subsidary companies. It has caused irreparable and incalculable damage to these companies."

Mr Myers told Mr Justice Beach he had been misled on matters of law and fact.

The granting of *ex parte* orders also carried a heavy responsibility on the party seeking the order to present all information.

"It was prima facie improper to obtain an *ex parte* order," Mr Myers said.

Mr Justice Beach said it was at his discretion whether he could appoint an *ex parte* receiver. He told Mr Myers there was a British law case where an unsecured creditor had a receiver appointed.

"This court can appoint the receiver whenever it thinks it is just or convenient to do so," Mr Justice Beach said.

The hearing continues on Monday.

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ABD (150)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (160)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (170)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (180)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (190)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (200)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (210)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (220)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (230)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (240)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (250)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (260)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (270)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (280)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (290)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (300)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (310)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (320)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (330)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (340)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
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ABD (360)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (370)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (380)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
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ABD (400)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (410)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
ABD (420)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
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ABD (1070)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
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ABD (1120)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
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ABD (1180)	500	45	40	45	88	15	28		
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Hoskyns shares rise on unidentified bid moves

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Hoskyns, Britain's biggest computer services specialist, 70 per cent of which belongs to Plessey, now owned by the General Electric Company (GEC) and Siemens, has had as yet unnamed bid approaches.

Its shares rose 65p to 338p on the announcement.

Hoskyns as a fast-growing company in a booming sector — its pre-tax profits last time were up 60 per cent, with earnings per share increased by 48 per cent — is likely to command a premium price close to, or possibly even more than, £300 million. It has seen consistent growth for 12 years.

GEC and Siemens said that Plessey had decided to enter into discussions with potential

purchasers of Hoskyns. When Hoskyns was floated on the stock market at the end of 1986, it was valued at just under £50 million, but there has been rapid growth since then, partly through acquisitions.

The most recent acquisition was of The Instruction Set, a provider of consultancy and training in specialized computer services, such as "open systems", in which computers from different manufacturers are hooked up. The initial payment of £3.5 million was expected to rise to around £12 million.

Hoskyns claims more than 60 per cent of the facilities management (FM) market, in which a computer services

operation runs a customer's computer system on its behalf. It is a booming market because smaller companies find it difficult to get the skilled staff needed.

The computer services sector, estimated to be worth more than £16 billion, is forecast to increase by 17 per cent a year for the next five years.

Interest in Hoskyns is likely to come from a wide spread of companies eager to get into such a sector, as well as from those already in it. The circumstances point to industrial combines, especially those in kindred technologies, such as telecommunications and electronics, and to companies in the United States, on the

Continent (especially France, West Germany and Italy) and, quite possibly, in Japan, which is driving hard into computer services.

In the past 12 months, there have been more than 100 mergers and acquisitions in the computer services sector. Acquisitions are as much about securing scarce skilled employees, many graduates, as about buying assets.

Last year, Hoskyns's assets were put at £25 million, and the company was worth about £200 million in all.

Mr Geoff Unwin, executive chairman of Hoskyns, said: "We have enormous opportunities in Europe, and we haven't touched the United States yet."

Expectations of Major changes in the Budget are running low



KENNETH FLEET

Expectations of John Major's first Budget this spring are running low. Faced with a politically embarrassing and economically high inflation rate the Government is pointing the finger at rising pay claims and double digit settlements. There is no alternative as the Prime Minister might say, indeed has said, to "quite a tough taxation policy so that we have a Budget surplus and not a deficit, and also high interest rates."

This broadcast message is underlined by a diminishing Budget surplus for 1989-90 which now seems likely to be less than the £12.5 billion forecast by the Treasury two months ago.

Though the prospect for cuts in personal tax is bleak, it may not be barren. There is pressure on the Treasury to find ways and means of encouraging personal saving — above and beyond raising interest rates. The City's first choice is the abolition of capital gains tax. The complexity and chore of CGT is undoubtedly a deterrent and scrapping it would assist the flagging cause of wider share ownership.

The chances of it happening are nil. Mrs Thatcher might have some sympathy with the argument, had the City itself shown zeal and determination for making investing less burdensome.

Ten years ago a committee was set up to examine London's tortuous and expensive method of settling Stock Exchange bargains and transferring ownership between sellers and buyers.

In 1980 the City set up the Powell Committee which in 1981 recommended a scheme that would do away with share certificates — the Transfer and Automated Registration of Uncertified Stock or Taurus. It rejected extending the electronic book-keeping system, Stock Exchange Pool Nominee or Sepon, which is at the heart of the Stock Exchange's own internal automated settlements system for market-makers (Talisman).

After paving the ground for eight years, in March last year Taurus was committed to the abolition in favour of an extension of Sepon. In October Taurus was partially reprieved as part of a bolder plan which seemed to have the support of the Stock Exchange, bank registrars (who make big money out of the present system), quoted

companies and institutional investors. It may not, however, have the support of the Government.

A decade of wavering over a paper-shuffling system that is estimated to cost a needless £200 million a year, most of it borne by investors and quoted companies, impresses no one, least of all Mrs Thatcher. Her relationship with the City has never been better than uneasy, which makes the decision of five major banks to withdraw from the Government's student loan scheme not merely cowardly but astonishingly gauche.

Despite this muddying of the waters, some modifications in CGT might be made. Raising the maximum gains (£5,000) allowed free of CGT would help free more investors of concern with the tax. After April those who are married and contemplate remaining married can each enjoy £5,000 of tax free capital gains. Those who love their spouses of course will equalize their assets. I cannot see CGT tax rates and income tax rates diverging; the case is not strong. A better idea is to extend to individual investors the facility available through unit trusts of switching investments without liability to CGT. Tax becomes payable only when the investments are finally sold.

Focus on securities

The weakness in equity markets this week is largely the result of civil strife in Russia and rising inflation and higher interest rates elsewhere. In London there were also the distress signals of 140 lost jobs at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers and 79 at County NatWest.

The securities businesses of both Citicorp and National Westminster have been so heavily undermined for months by their own mistakes and misfortunes, by rumour and by hostile

speculation, that the decision of County to retrench and of Citicorp to abandon its core equities business in London had an air of inevitability. Immediately the news was released, however, the spotlight — and the speculation — moved to other firms which might be next to go down the same path. In these circumstances you will not find market-makers taking dealing risks which might count against them should the music stop.

For the great majority of securities firms making markets profits, if they exist at all, are vestigial. Basically for three reasons:

1. There are too many firms making markets for the amount of business available;
2. Investing institutions are using their muscle to extract the last penny from both brokers and market-makers;
3. Securities firms' costs are still far too high. County NatWest estimates that the securities industry's losses in 1988 were £450 million. If a dividend clerk whose salary was £8,000 in 1985 is now paid more than £30,000, that is not altogether surprising.

The picture, though generally gloomy, is not totally black. The outstanding bright spot is Cazenove which has shown the wisdom of continuing to do only what you are good at doing and not being seduced — unless the partners wanted only to take their gold and leave the City for the firm — into becoming part of a conglomerate, particularly one headed by a clearing bank. On the other hand there is no quick remedy to the structural weakness of the stock market. None of the main market-makers is likely to give up the business completely. County NatWest is a prime example of retrenchment indicating a renewed commitment. The departure of small market-makers will not make much difference to the balance of power.

Each firm has to look to its own salvation but the International Stock Exchange also has a responsibility to its members to make such changes in rules and dealing systems that may legitimately improve their lot. There is no compelling evidence to suggest that the ISE would attempt anything radical. Tinkering, protected by the skirts of the Bank of England, still seems the preferred option.

Training managers for industry

Mrs Thatcher is certainly more at home among industrialists than among bankers, as she demonstrated last week when formally opening the Advanced Technology Centre at Warwick University.

Thatcherism has been both cruel and kind to industry, cutting a swath through the manufacturing base and restoring to management the power to manage.

Controls have been abolished, whole industries privatised, union power curtailed, corporate and personal taxation reformed, education remodelled, training encouraged. It is a remarkable

catalogue of incentive and opportunity. But so far, with honourable exceptions, the regeneration of management in manufacturing has not been achieved.

Uniquely in Britain, the Manufacturing Systems Engineering Group at Warwick, under Professor Kumar Bhattacharya, is training and retaining thousands of middle and senior managers, in partnership with their companies.

The courses, which pull together financial, managerial and technological disciplines, are integrated with the "students' careers. The new Advanced Technology Centre is an outstanding example of what close understanding

between companies and a university can achieve.

It is clear that Mrs Thatcher is in the mood for a new initiative in training. Hitherto, government-sponsored training has been focused on the young and the unemployed.

Last week she was talking about "training in management." In an interview, she said: "We are looking much more closely at training... to get the best out of manufacturing industry."

If she has in mind a new approach to near vocational post-graduate education, she has the Warwick model in mind.

Alton faces shake-up of leisure interests

By Our City Staff

The next few weeks are likely to see a radical restructuring of the leisure interests of Mr John Broome, owner of the Alton Towers theme park near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and would-be developer of Battersea power station.

As Sir Robert McAlpine, the contractor, moves the last of its equipment off the Battersea site, Mr Broome's £280 million dream of building a huge leisure complex is over. Salvation of his ambitions for the site now lies in the hands of Wandsworth Council, which will consider his new application for a development made up principally of commercial office and exhibition space.

A number of property companies are understood to be looking at the site.

The role of Mr Paul Bloomfield in the development is as mercurial as ever. Last year, Mr Broome and Mr Bloomfield announced their plans for a new company, Alton International, to be jointly held on a 50:50 basis.

When asked yesterday whether Alton International had actually come into existence, a Broome spokesman would not comment.

The new planning application has been lodged by Alton Group.

Despite this confusion over his precise equity involvement, Mr Bloomfield is still involved in the negotiations over the site's future. But speculation that Mr Broome is also looking for a buyer or partner in Alton Towers to pay for the costs incurred at Battersea looked wide of the mark, or at least premature, pending Wandsworth planners' decision.

A public exhibition of Alton's new plans for Battersea — 2 million sq ft of offices, 750,000 sq ft of exhibition space — opens in 10 days' time, with an alternative plan submitted by owners of the Business Design Centre, in Islington, which wants to turn Battersea into an exhibition-museum centre for the construction industry.



Rights issue for expansion: Thomas Harrison, the chairman of Norfolk House, yesterday

Fast acceleration to £8.7m

By Sam Parkhouse

Profits motored in the fast lane for Norfolk House, the petrol station developer, in the year to September, rising 42 per cent pre-tax to £8.7 million.

Turnover advanced 84 per cent to £92.7 million and the stations owned or operated nearly doubled to 110.

Mr Thomas Harrison, the chairman, said the company made significant progress towards being the leading developer of roadside facilities for motorists in the country. Since

the autumn Norfolk has made four acquisitions, which are being financed by a £20.8 million rights issue.

Profits from the core business of developing roadside service areas increased by £2.1 million to £6.4 million in the year.

On the proceeds of Norfolk's four-for-one rights issue at 190p a share the company plans to reduce gearing from 160 per cent to about 5 per cent.

Dealings in the new shares

will commence on February 6. Beeson Gregory, the broker, says Norfolk will then be capitalised at £82 million, and the company will apply for progression from the USM to a full listing this summer.

Beeson Gregory expect full year profits to rise to £16 million this year implying earnings per share of 30p.

A final dividend of 3.375p brings the total to 4.5p (3.375p), an earnings per share up by 34 per cent to 23.6p.

Reject Shop slides into red at interim

By Philip Pangalos

Shares in Reject Shop, the USM household goods retailer, fell 15p to 55p after the company revealed it had slipped into the red at the half-way stage.

After last June's warning of a "dismal" first half, the company showed a pre-tax loss of £255,000 in the 28 weeks to October 1, compared with profits of £227,000 last time. Turnover slipped from £7.53 million to £7.49 million.

About 75 per cent of the drop in sales, hit by the recession in the housing market, was down to furniture which accounted for about £700,000 of lost profits.

Mr Edward Aaronson, the

chairman, said high interest rates, reduced sales and declining profit figures have characterized one of the most difficult periods for the retail trade in recent years.

There is a 1.75p loss per share, compared with earnings of 1.37p previously. Despite this, the interim dividend is maintained at 1.05p. Interest payments were £86,000, after receipts of £19,000 last time.

Mr Anthony Hawser, managing director, said the second half had shown a marked improvement.

Analysts have downgraded full year forecasts to between £650,000 and £750,000, after last year's £1.46 million.

Norfolk calls off Sloane Club sale

By Martin Waller

Norfolk Capital Group, the hotels company under siege by Mr Peter Tyrrie's Balmoral International, has cancelled the £18 million sale of London's Sloane Club after the buyer failed to find the finance by completion date.

Thomas Peterson Associates, the purchaser, had advised Norfolk it was unable to provide the finance. The contract for sale had been rescinded.

The sale had been criticized by Mr Tyrrie, who is mounting a challenge to replace the existing management at an extraordinary meeting on January 29. On learning of the news, he commented: "It is

nothing less than we expected. It typifies what Norfolk is about."

Mr Peter Eyles, Norfolk's chairman, defended his decision to enter into the contract with TPA, a shell company being used as an acquisition vehicle by Mr Thomas O'Connor, a private businessman.

He said it had been based on a letter from an unnamed American institution acting through an unnamed European bank saying TPA had the funds available.

"If we did think it was going to fall apart, why on earth didn't we set the completion date after the ecm?" he said.

Guinness shares rise after Paris court ruling

Judge refuses to annul LVMH stake

By Our Financial Staff

Guinness shares rose 12p to 675p after a Paris court rejected a request to annul a contested stake in Moët-Hennessy Louis Vuitton (LVMH) held by M Bernard Arnault, the LVMH chairman.

The decision is good news for Guinness and means that M Arnault retains effective control of the drinks and luxury goods group protecting lucrative joint distribution agreements with the British drinks group.

M Arnault has been supported by Guinness, which holds 24 per cent of LVMH, throughout the long dispute.

Judge Philippe Grandjean, in the Paris commercial court, yesterday rejected a request by some LVMH shareholders to annul the 12 per cent stake bought after a 1987 warrants issue, which gave M

Arnault control of the company. The judge confirmed a decision taken by the Court of Appeal on November 2, saying that the appeal court had the authority to rule on the issue. The long and complex case is now likely to return to the appeal court.

LVMH said it was satisfied with the ruling, but declined further comment.

The court decision was the latest development of a long-running battle between M Arnault and M Henry Racamier, head of LVMH's subsidiary Louis Vuitton.

Certain LVMH shareholders, backing M Racamier, argued they had been given insufficient information about the warrants when they were issued.

Last July, the Paris commercial court ruled in favour of M Arnault and refused

to annul the warrants. But the Paris appeal court said on November 2 that while the exercised warrants should not be annulled, the way the warrants had been issued was irregular.

The contested 12 per cent stake brought the total shareholding under M Arnault's control to 44 per cent of the capital and about 35 per cent of the voting rights in LVMH. M Arnault's allies among Moët-Hennessy families control a further 12 per cent of LVMH capital. According to M Arnault's aides, the chairman's position would be strong enough to manage the group even without the shares from the issue.

But M Racamier's camp says the loss of the 12 per cent stake would cut M Arnault's voting power to 30 per cent, less than a blocking minority.

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WALL STREET

Dow advance trimmed

New York (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average was ahead by 8 points to 2,674.38 in early trading after rising to 2,680.00 at the opening.

Shares generally were higher but blue chips showed some instability on "Double Expirations" day, when some futures contracts and options expire.

A recovery in bond prices also helped shares rise. UAL jumped 7 1/2 to 165 1/2 after a report that Mr. Marvin Davis, the investor, may make a new bid for the airline group.

● Tokyo - The Nikkei index jumped 107.08 points, or 0.29 per cent, to 36,836.54. It has dropped 680.23 points for the week.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 88.1 (day's range 87.9-88.3).

Market rates for January 19				
Item	Class	1 month	3 month	
Argentina austral				2918.63-3001.1
Australia dollar				2.0725-2.076

	Passage	Current	1st Passage	2nd Passage	
New York	1.6415-1.8450	1.6450-1.8460	0.94-0.92pr	2.55-2.57pr	Barran cher 0.8145-0.622
Miami	1.821R-1.9439	1.8433-1.9439	0.48-0.44pr	0.52-0.48pr	Brazo cruzado 22.8985-23.076
					Cornus round 0.7740-0.726

Amsterdam	3.1599-3.1782	3.1633-3.1666	1 1/2-1 1/4pr	4 1/2-4 1/4pr	Pinkard marks	6.5890-6.5656
Brussels	58.73-59.10	58.73-58.93	24-21pr	63-63pr	Greece drachmas	280.40-263.60
Channell	10.8700-10.9210	10.8800-10.9000	9 1/2-12.35pr	8 1/2-10.00pr	Monaco franc dollars	10.2070-12.0450

Dubai	1.0559-1.0634	1.0568-1.0578	26-21pr	79-69pr	India rupee	27.76-28.0
Frankf	2.8037-2.8201	2.8105-2.8138	1% $\frac{1}{2}$ -1%pr	4% $\frac{1}{2}$ -4%pr	Kuwait dinar KD	0.4760-0.482

Lisbon	246.62-248.24	246.62-247.87	5-400s	54-1780s	Malaysia ringgit	4.4448-4.448
Madrid	181.96-182.61	182.24-182.63	7-1pr	18-80s	Mexico peso	4400-450s
Muen	2085.53-2099.94	2081.43-2094.35	6-1pr	13-11pr	New Zealand dollar	2.6898-2.696

Oso	10.8118-10.8400	10.8118-10.8348	9%-3%pr	9%-9%pr	Saudi Arabia ryal	6.1115-6.1593
Pani	9.5322-9.5895	9.5492-9.5633	3%-3%pr	9%-9%pr	Singapore dollar	3.0762-3.0885
Stockholm	10.2052-10.2495	10.2268-10.2495	2%-2%pr	9%-6%pr	S Africa rand (fin)	8.5353-8.6288

Tokyo	239.00-240.47	239.76-240.07	1 1/4-1 1/4pr	4 1/4-4 1/4pr	S Africa rand (com)....	4.2155-4.223
Vienna	19.81-19.89	19.81-19.85	12 1/2-11 1/4pr	34 1/2-30 1/2pr	U A E dirham	5.9850-6.065
Zurich	2.4966-2.5462	2.4948-2.4978	1 1/4-1 1/4pr	3 1/4-3 1/4pr		

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES			
Ireland	1.5515-1.5530	Denmark	6.8050-6.8100
Singapore	1.8220-1.8230	U.S.C.	1.3520-1.3530
		Italy	1270.5-1271.5

Malaysia	2.7045-2.7055	the Germany	1.7070-1.7080	Belgium (com)	35.70-35.71
Australia	1.2610-1.2626	Switzerland	1.5160-1.5180	Hong Kong	7.8085-7.8095
Canada	1.4794-1.4802	Netherlands	1.9245-1.9255	Portugal	150.30-150.80

France	1.175-1.195	Spain	110.65-110.75
Sweden	6.2000-6.2050	Austria	12.03-12.04
Norway	6.5725-5.5775		

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Exel

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %:	Cleaning Banks 15	Finance Hse 15½	EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %
Discount Market Loans %			Current 7 day 1 month 3 months 6 months

Overnight High: 14% Low 13 Week fixed: 14%
 Treasury Bills (Discount %)
 Buying: 2 mth - 14²²/₃₂ 3 mth - 14²¹/₃₂
 Cash: 8%-7%
 Dealer's Cash: 7 1/2% - 8 1/2%

Selling: 2 mth - 14 ²⁷ / ₃₂	3 mth - 14 ¹⁶ / ₃₂	Cash/Discount	7-10-11-18	9-7%	8%-8%	8 11-18-18
Price Bank Bills (Discount %)	1 mth: 14 ²⁷ / ₃₂ -14 ²⁷ / ₃₂	Gross: 7%-6%	French Franc:	10 ¹⁰ -10 ¹⁰	10 ¹³ -10 ¹³	11% - 11 11%-11%
2 mth: 14%-14 ¹¹ / ₃₂	3 mth: 14 ¹¹ / ₃₂ -14%					
6 mth: 14 ¹¹ / ₃₂ -14%	8 mth: 14 ¹¹ / ₃₂ -14%					

Trade Bills (Discount %):	1 mth: 15 ¹³ / ₁₆	3 mth: 15 ¹³ / ₁₆	6 mth: 15 ¹³ / ₁₆	9 mth: 15 ¹³ / ₁₆	12 mth: 15 ¹³ / ₁₆
2 mth: 15%	3 mth: 15 ¹³ / ₁₆	6 mth: 14 ¹³ / ₁₆			
Interbank (%):	Overnight: open 14%	1 mth: 14%			

1 week: 15-14% 1 mth: 15%-15 3 mths: 15%-15% 6 mths: 15%-15% 1 yr: 15%-15% 2 yrs: 15%-15% 3 yrs: 15%-15% 4 yrs: 15%-15% 5 yrs: 15%-15% 6 yrs: 15%-15% 7 yrs: 15%-15% 8 yrs: 15%-15% 9 yrs: 15%-15% 10 yrs: 15%-15% 11 yrs: 15%-15% 12 yrs: 15%-15% 13 yrs: 15%-15% 14 yrs: 15%-15% 15 yrs: 15%-15% 16 yrs: 15%-15% 17 yrs: 15%-15% 18 yrs: 15%-15% 19 yrs: 15%-15% 20 yrs: 15%-15% 21 yrs: 15%-15% 22 yrs: 15%-15% 23 yrs: 15%-15% 24 yrs: 15%-15% 25 yrs: 15%-15% 26 yrs: 15%-15% 27 yrs: 15%-15% 28 yrs: 15%-15% 29 yrs: 15%-15% 30 yrs: 15%-15% 31 yrs: 15%-15% 32 yrs: 15%-15% 33 yrs: 15%-15% 34 yrs: 15%-15% 35 yrs: 15%-15% 36 yrs: 15%-15% 37 yrs: 15%-15% 38 yrs: 15%-15% 39 yrs: 15%-15% 40 yrs: 15%-15% 41 yrs: 15%-15% 42 yrs: 15%-15% 43 yrs: 15%-15% 44 yrs: 15%-15% 45 yrs: 15%-15% 46 yrs: 15%-15% 47 yrs: 15%-15% 48 yrs: 15%-15% 49 yrs: 15%-15% 50 yrs: 15%-15% 51 yrs: 15%-15% 52 yrs: 15%-15% 53 yrs: 15%-15% 54 yrs: 15%-15% 55 yrs: 15%-15% 56 yrs: 15%-15% 57 yrs: 15%-15% 58 yrs: 15%-15% 59 yrs: 15%-15% 60 yrs: 15%-15% 61 yrs: 15%-15% 62 yrs: 15%-15% 63 yrs: 15%-15% 64 yrs: 15%-15% 65 yrs: 15%-15% 66 yrs: 15%-15% 67 yrs: 15%-15% 68 yrs: 15%-15% 69 yrs: 15%-15% 70 yrs: 15%-15% 71 yrs: 15%-15% 72 yrs: 15%-15% 73 yrs: 15%-15% 74 yrs: 15%-15% 75 yrs: 15%-15% 76 yrs: 15%-15% 77 yrs: 15%-15% 78 yrs: 15%-15% 79 yrs: 15%-15% 80 yrs: 15%-15% 81 yrs: 15%-15% 82 yrs: 15%-15% 83 yrs: 15%-15% 84 yrs: 15%-15% 85 yrs: 15%-15% 86 yrs: 15%-15% 87 yrs: 15%-15% 88 yrs: 15%-15% 89 yrs: 15%-15% 90 yrs: 15%-15% 91 yrs: 15%-15% 92 yrs: 15%-15% 93 yrs: 15%-15% 94 yrs: 15%-15% 95 yrs: 15%-15% 96 yrs: 15%-15% 97 yrs: 15%-15% 98 yrs: 15%-15% 99 yrs: 15%-15% 100 yrs: 15%-15%

2 day: 14% 7 day: 14½ 1 mth: 15
3 mth: 15% 6 mth: 15% 12 mth: 14½ 15½

3 mth: 15¢-15¢ 6 mth: 15¢-15¢ 12 mth: 15-14¢
 Dollar CDs @ 1% 1 mth: 8.28-8.23
 3 mth: 8.30-8.25 6 mth: 8.40-8.35 12 mth: 8.50-8.45
 Open: \$410.75-411.25 Close: \$409.75-410.25
 High: \$410.75-411.25 Low: \$408.25-408.75

Building Society CDs (%)

1 mth	2 mth	3 mth
15%-15 ¹ / ₂ %	15%-15 ¹ / ₂ %	15%-15 ¹ / ₂ %

COINS: Per coin (Ex VAT)

Brizzone	£417.00-£22.00	(£253 50-256.50)
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TREASURY BILLS

Old: \$98,365%
 last week: \$96,380%
 1996 rate: \$14,5684%

next week: £300m	replaced £300m	silver: \$5.21-5.23 (£3.170-3.185)
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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
T-SE 100					
Mar 90	2380.0	2382.0	2337.0	2344.0	87335
					Previous open interest 24132
Three month ECU					
					Previous open interest 1590

190	2410.0	2410.0	2405.0	2389.0	100	Mar 90	68.60	68.65	66.58	66.60	220
190	2410.0	2410.0	2405.0	2389.0	100	Jun 90	68.90	69.94	68.90	68.92	73

90	54.78	54.59	54.72	54.85	34181	Mar 90	95-19	95-25	Previous open interest 4392
90	55.36	55.48	55.30	55.44	22259	Long GB			95-12 95-21 6168

Previous open interest	929	88-03	88-16	87-25	88-15	23684
Mar 80	91.84	91.88	91.64	91.68	9975	
Jun 80	91.58	91.62	91.59	91.61	2368	

Free Month Euro DM	Previous open interest 32,880		German Govt Bond	Previous open interest 36,252	
Mar 90	91.30	91.37	Mar 90	87.89	88.37
Jun 90	91.31	91.38			

COMMODITIES

COMMODITIES

refinery
s, whilst
products

Cocoa
Mar 821-822
Mar 823-828

AMT Futures
Dec 687-688
Jan 689-690

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Official prices/volumes previous day
Rudolf Wolff

	Vol	Total
Cash	3 month	Vol Total
Copper Gde A	1399,4-1402,5	1414,0-1415,0

COFFEE	AMT Futures	Lead	421.00-421.50	414.50-415.00	51725	Steady
Jan 573-574	Sep 640-642	Zinc HI Gds*	1340.0-1250.0	1210.0-1220.0	9025	Steady
Mar 588-590	Nov 648-649					Quiet

50 BYR	May 805-603	Jan 677-680	1258.0-1258.0	1263.0-1266.0	143375	Steadler
50-80-25	Jul 624-625	Vol 3038	6580-6590	6695-6695	5045	Foster
25-63.50			1488.0-1490.0	1500.0-1500.0		

90-81.50		Mickel*	6425-6450	1318.0-1319.0	317950	Steady
90-81.00		† (Cents per Troy oz.) * (\$ per ounce)	6325-6350	10140		Irregular

LONDON MEAT
FUTURES (cont)

WHEAT class (FJF)		Vol 225	Live Pig Contract	A/g's totalstock prices at representative	
Ja 113.20	Mr 115.75	My 115.80	With	Open	Close
0-20.70					
0-19.75					

	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
BARLEY CREE (7%) Vol 15	85.09	235.37	109.61
JAN 109.35	MA 110.80	MA 112.80	MA 112.80

Close	Sp 103.55	Nv 103.60	Ja 103.70	Aug 107.8	107.0	Eng/Wat (%)	110.00	79.31	-3.82
142.5	SOYABEAN	ABST Futures	Live Cattle Contract	Eng/Wat (p)	35.00	204.04	108.28		
				Eng/Wat (p)	45.00				

199.0	Feb 136.0-37.0	Oct 133.5-35.5	Jan 112.8	112.8	Scotland (%)	+10.55	+6.01	-0.37
224.0	Apr 136.5-38.0	Dec 137.0-40.0	Feb 114.0	114.0	Scotland (2)	n/a	-42.9	-62.3
102.5	Jun 134.0-34.5	Feb 138.0-43.0	Apr 116.0	116.0	Scotland (3)	n/a	208.52	112.84

Vol 110 Aug 1995 35.0	Vol n/a Vol Pig-19 Cattle-0	Estimated dead carcass weight	n/a +18.18	+0.41
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100

FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Compensation details at last for Clowes investors

Early next week investors in Barlow Clowes should be receiving final details of the Government's £150 million compensation package. Letters, which will include a full description of the offer, are to be sent out this weekend. First payments to investors should follow next month.

Mr Nigel Hamilton of Ernst & Young, joint receiver of Barlow Clowes International and joint liquidator of Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers, said that hammering out the terms of compensation had been high on the list of priorities.

A letter is to be sent out explaining the offer, along with a full definition of the Government's terms and a copy of the accounts. Investors will be asked to return a form assigning their rights to the Government.

Most of the 18,000 investors — those who placed less than £10,000 with the two companies — will get 90 per cent of their money back. The few who invested over



Former success: Peter Clowes. £50,000 will be paid on a sliding scale down to a minimum of 60 per cent of their investment. The payments will include rolled-up interest based on building society rates. Once assignment forms have been returned to Ernst & Young and Cook Gully, the accountants handling the distribution, first payments will be made. The process should

be complete by the end of February.

Action is also imminent against the intermediaries and professional advisers associated with the Barlow Clowes group during its controversial history. The Government has said it will vigorously pursue claims against third parties to help out the cost of the £150 million payout.

Firms previously criticized for their role in the affair include Spicer & Pegler, now Spicer & Oppenheim, which dealt with the group until 1985, and Herbert Smith, the solicitors. Also criticized was Touche Ross, which replaced Spicer as auditor, and other advisers associated with the parent company, James Ferguson Holdings.

The joint receivers hope to recover as much as £65 million of the £119 million invested with Barlow Clowes International, so reducing the cost to the Government.

Jon Ashworth

Ex-gratia payment concession

Most Barlow Clowes investors can expect to be well satisfied with the Government's generous compensation package. But for people who invested through the salesmen of Allied Dunbar, an bonus may be on the cards.

Allied Dunbar has said it may allow some investors to keep ex-gratia payments made by the insurance company last year to prevent particular financial hardship through loss of invested money.

The company has paid out £100,000, which represents a

mixture of lost capital and interest which should have been earned by investments in Barlow Clowes.

Mr Peter Emms, executive director, marketing of Allied Dunbar, said the insurance company will consider each investor's case on its merits to decide whether or not to allow the investor to keep a hardship payment.

Those "merits" include how much advice was given by the A.D. salesman before the investor decided to place money in Barlow Clowes. "Some of

the investors would have had a better claim than others if they had gone to court," said Mr Emms.

Repayments made to replace lost capital rather than interest earned from the investment, will have to be repaid to the company when the investors receive Government compensation.

"We took an assignment of rights from those investors for their right to compensation," said Mr Emms.

Jill Insley

New rules for Peps threaten to confuse, claim managers

New personal equity plan rules could confuse investors when managers are allowed to choose whether or not to give a cooling-off period, or the opportunity to cancel plans, to investors, writes Lindsay Cook.

The proposed rules from the Securities and Investments Board, scheduled to come into operation on April 6, will allow

managers to choose between the two for unit trust only and new issue plans. It is unlikely they will take a uniform approach so some unit trust only plans will not be invested immediately while others will.

Investment groups, which offer a comprehensive range of personal equity plans, are likely to continue operating a cooling-off period — investment does not take place for seven days — because otherwise they would have to produce two different sets of literature for unit trust only and share Peps. They would also have to operate stringent checks to make sure correct notices went out to investors.

Unit trust groups offering only unit trust Peps will invest immediately for plan holders but give them the option to cancel within 14 days.

The Inland Revenue had originally blocked the request from plan managers to be allowed to operate on a cancellation basis, in the same way as they do for unit trusts, because investors are only allowed to hold one plan a year. Technically a cancelled

plan would count as their one plan for the year. That has now been cleared up but investment groups offering Peps, which also invest in UK shares, feel they must remain on their current basis.

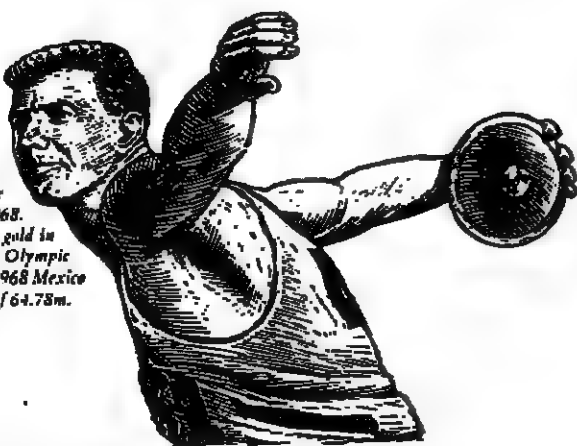
At Fidelity, Ms Mary Blair, the marketing director, said: "It is annoying. As far as I can see, if we were to introduce cancellation for unit trust only plans, then our brochure would have to incorporate details of both. We would have to explain cooling-off and cancellation and make it clear which plans they applied to."

Fidelity has received a number of complaints and enquiries from investors who did not understand why their Peps had not been invested immediately, Ms Blair added.

There will still be a problem at the end of the financial year for the new rules come into force on April 6. Investors are likely to rush into a plan for the 1989-90 financial year. They will have to allow more than seven days to make sure they meet the deadline for otherwise they will miss out altogether.

James Capel Gold Performance

AL OERTER (USA). A legend of the Olympic Games, he achieved the seemingly impossible feat of winning FOUR successive Olympic gold medals between 1936 and 1968. Few believed he could win a third gold in Tokyo, but he did, extending the Olympic record to 61.00m. He also won the 1968 Mexico Games with a lifetime best throw of 64.78m.



James Capel Gold and General Fund is managed by Julian Baring who was voted top gold analyst in the Extel surveys for 15 consecutive years from 1974-1988 when he became the Fund's Manager.

Since its launch on 1st April 1988, it has become Britain's top performing Gold Fund (Source: Micropal).

It aims to achieve consistent, long term performance and capital growth from an actively managed portfolio of gold mining, commodity and precious metal related shares.

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Lindsay Cook tests opinion on the latest investment prospects

Two European trusts line up for lift-off

At a time when an historic number of investment trusts are trading at premiums of up to 18 per cent, two European trusts are ready to be launched and some rights issues are also on the way.

Edinburgh-based Martin Currie held a series of seminars this week for brokers to tell them about its plans for a European trust, aimed at private investors, and expected to be launched next month.

Touche Renmant is also well advanced with its plans for a European investment trust expected to concentrate on medium and smaller companies. It will be managed by the same team that look after Touche Renmant's £75 million European unit trust.

At Martin Currie, joint managing director, Mr Joe Scott Plummer, said he could not talk to anyone other than intermediaries about the trust ahead of the prospectus next month. The company, which has £2.5 billion under management, would decide whether to proceed in the next few days, he added.

Mr Paul Manduca, vice-chairman of Touche Renmant, would not comment on its plans for a new investment trust, although it is expected to start test marketing in the next two to three weeks. A European investment trust would be a natural for TR, which is now owned by Société Générale.

TR launched a high income investment trust at the end of 1989, which also included subscription shares in the pack-



Rights: Richard Carswell. It now stands at an 11 per cent premium.

"I can see a lot of scope in Europe although you have got to be a bit cautious after all the euphoria," said Mr Manduca. "The tide has turned for investment trusts. In more volatile markets investors are focusing on what they are paying for."

Looking at the premiums on some trusts currently, he advised: "There are likely to be no sellers and few buyers but they can have a rights issue."

Foreign & Colonial's Eurotrust had a rights issue last autumn. This was announced before the mini-crash in October and many private investors who hold half the shares in the trust decided against taking up their rights.



Testing: Paul Manduca. The shares offered at 340p are now trading at 388p.

"It is difficult to get a rights issue away," said Mr Stephen White, manager of Eurotrust. "To be successful you have to have traded for some time on premiums of 0 to 10 per cent and have institutional support to underwrite the shares. It is often a problem as the climate can change quite quickly."

Mr Richard Carswell, the marketing director of Ivory & Sime, said there was a "good likelihood" that rights issues would increasingly be used to bring premiums down. And following a successful £18 million rights issue, its Continental Assets Trust is now standing at a 4.6 per cent premium.

In the European sector eight out of the 10 companies are at

a premium and of the other two the largest discount was 4 per cent. Lloyds Bank's Germany Smaller Companies Trust is at a 9 per cent premium, while Foreign & Colonial's Eurotrust is at a 7 per cent premium. In the Far East, the Edinburgh Fund Managers' Dragon Trust is at an 18 per cent premium.

Ms Lesley Rennoise of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, said there were an increasing number of companies trading consistently at par or above.

"In the current markets a number of rights issues must be under consideration to bring premiums down," Ms Rennoise pointed out. "At 5, 6, or 7 per cent premiums are reasonable because investors are paying for expertise and for access to markets that they might not otherwise be able to enter."

"Some investors do not understand that the premium means they are paying more for the underlying shares. Savings schemes have brought a lot of relatively unsophisticated investors into the market. They provide a steady demand and have an ever-increasing effect on the discounts of smaller trusts."

The average trust is trading at a discount of 14 per cent to the underlying value of the shares. This is a fall of 10 per cent in the last two years. The association is conducting a survey to find out the number of individual shareholders that there are with investment trusts.

PERFORMANCE COMES FIRST AT FIDELITY

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1yr 2yrs 3yrs 4yrs 5yrs 6yrs 7yrs 8yrs 9yrs 10yrs
2111111111

Source: Planned Savings Data Services Group. Weighted Performance Rankings: 1st to the 40 largest unit trust groups in 1989. Offer to Offer

Fidelity has been managing unit trusts in the UK for just 10 years. In that time performance across our range of trusts, as measured by Planned Savings Data Services, a leading statistical authority, has consistently surpassed that of other major unit trust companies.

Quite simply, **Fidelity is the Unit Trust Group of the Decade.** It's not surprising. Over the last 10 years we've invested heavily in building our fund management and research operations all over the world. And in the '90s we will further increase investment in these areas so that we can continue to offer superior performance.

So start the new decade right — invest with the strength of Fidelity. Below we highlight a number of investment opportunities which, even in volatile markets, offer excellent potential for building real gains over the longer term.

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The 1990s could well be the decade of diversification for investors. To find out more about Fidelity's proven performance across major world markets, talk to your Independent Financial Adviser. Alternatively, Callfree Fidelity on 0800 414161 or return the coupon below for your free copy of Fidelity's international investment views and recommendations.

Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of a unit trust or PEP may go down as well as up, hence the investor may not get back the amount invested. Tax advantages of a PEP are subject to statutory change.

*All Trust performance figures to 1.1.90, offer to offer, net income reinvested. Source: Micropal. Over 5 years, Special Situations Trust +306.1% and ranks No. 1. Japan Special Situations Trust +307.7%, South East Asia Trust +178.2%.

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Please send me details of the Fidelity PEP ☐ Fidelity European Trust ☐ Fidelity Japan Special Situations Trust ☐ Fidelity South East Asia Trust ☐ I would like a copy of Planning Your Portfolio for the 1990s ☐ (please tick box)

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Over the last 15 years this magazine has compiled 29 tables surveying 10, 15 and 20 year regular contribution with-profits plans. The Equitable has been top in fourteen and second in seven more. No other company has even approached this remarkable record.

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Under-16s at Halifax favour cash cards

By Lindsay Cook

More than three-quarters of 16-year-old savers with the Halifax Building Society have cash dispenser cards compared with about 30 per cent of its adult customers.

The largest building society reports in a survey of its 12 to 16-year-old savers that 76 per cent of the 16-year-old respondents use a cash card with the highest percentage of cards being held by youngsters in Northern Ireland.

Cash cards can only be held by youngsters 14 years and older but in Northern Ireland 58 per cent of the 12 and 16-year-olds had a card which is almost 50 per cent higher than last year. While adults are slower to take to machines, the Halifax reports that 34 per cent of transactions are through the cash card.

The annual survey shows that pocket money has risen from £3.46 a week to £3.60 with those living in south Wales and the West Country still the least well-off.

The teenagers are at odds with traditional stereotypes. Scottish teenagers find it most embarrassing to be short of cash, while Londoners are the most frugal. Half of the sample said they only spend when they have to. Teenagers from the North-west are least likely to be careful with their money.

In the South-east, south Wales and the West Country pocket money is most likely to be topped up with a part-time job, whereas Londoners were least likely to earn more in the evenings and at weekends.

About half the respondents from the panel of 1,000 youngsters from all backgrounds and all regions, said they were uncertain about whether they will stay in the region where they live or move to find jobs. Those living in London and the South-east are believed to have the best job opportunities whereas only 6 per cent of the Scottish sample rated Scotland highly.

Of those who thought they knew where they wanted to move, 11 per cent of Londoners are considering moving north to take advantage of the increasing number of companies and industries opening up there as well as the lower property prices.

Wayne Asher sounds out investment trends in changing Europe

Experts predict roller coaster German market

West Germany was the place to invest during the last few months of 1989. Some Far East markets did better but in West Germany there was that euphoric sense of new beginning, of being in at the birth of a superpower.

The resulting boom on the Frankfurt stock market helped European unit trusts deliver an average 43 per cent return, with the best from Fidelity, jumping by 67 per cent during the year.

But that does not mean the euphoria was justified, nor that investors should sell everything else and pile into West Germany. Even fund managers, normally brimming with optimism, are warning a correction is due.

Mrs Lynne Ridgeway, who runs Lloyds Bank's German Growth Trust - it turned £100 into £160 last year - said: "There's no denying that the long term looks very healthy. But in the short term the momentum behind the market is sentiment and not valuation."

People, it seems, have been carried away and lost sight of the fundamentals that really move markets in anything other than the short term.

West German shares look expensive compared with the income they produce while, said Mrs Ridgeway, the West German boom owed a lot to enthusiasm over the possibility of a reunited Germany becoming a superpower.

Eastern Europe, she warns, "will see some nasty surprises



Euphoria at the wall: East Berlin relaxed its restrictions

as well as pleasant ones in the next few years". The more West Germany integrates with Eastern Europe, the more political turmoil will affect Western stock markets.

According to Mr Greg Allen of Crown Life's unit trust arm, "in the short term the signs are events in Eastern Europe will adversely affect inflation". He expects the West German market to be no more than 10 per cent or so up during 1990.

For a British investor, the gain would be greater if sterling continued to slide against the Deutschmark. Indeed, one reason for backing West Germany in the long term is that one is buying assets denominated in hard currencies. These will increase in worth for no other reason than sterling's decline.

Financial advisers too are cautious about the euphoria surrounding Germany. Mr Mark Dempsey of Bristol-based Whitechurch Securities,

does not recommend pure West German funds preferring general European trusts, which give a wider spread of investments.

He points to the central difference between Germany and the boom markets of Japan and the Far East: "Unlike the Japanese, the West Germans are not great equity buyers. Traditionally, they prefer to buy bonds."

"As a result the stock market is small and is really run by foreign investors. If they pull out, then it plunges just as it did back in October."

Japan has been jittery in the past fortnight but many experts regard it as being virtually crashproof. Since the Japanese invest most of their savings in shares, less than 5 per cent of Japanese shares are owned by foreigners so Tokyo finds it easy to shrug off crashes starting in New York or London.

Top chartist Mr David Fuller, who accurately predicted the 1987 crash, is now gloomy about equities in general. He still expects Japan, rather than West Germany, to be the most resilient market, even in bad times.

There is little in the history of European unit trusts to suggest they will be the next supertrusts. In the last days of the great bull market, they were up an average 13 per cent over a year. But UK growth trusts were up by 30 per cent, the smaller Far East markets by 45 per cent and Japan by 66 per cent.

South-east Asia in sights of new trust

By Jon Ashworth

The latest in a growing band of unit trusts to take a bet on the risky markets of south-east Asia has been unveiled by Morgan Grenfell Unit Trust Managers.

The Asian Trader Trust - on offer for only two days next month - is aiming for high capital growth in markets such as Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore. It also favours the tiger cub economies of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Ms Diane Seymour-Williams is the strategic investment thinker behind the trust.

Despite the unusually short offer period, scheduled for February 15 and 16, investors will be free to subscribe for units ahead of the launch. The difference is that no money will be invested until after the offer closes.

Mr Tony Fraber, managing director of MGUTM, said he hopes to attract £20 million in new investment but that any cheques sent in before the offer opened would not be cashed early. There is a 2 per cent discount during the offer period.

The fund will only be available through intermediaries. "This is a volatile



region," said Mr Fraber, "and we don't want to be seen to be encouraging investment there without proper advice."

The minimum investment is £1,000 and the initial charge 5.25 per cent.

James Capel's Tiger Index Fund, which invests in a similar spread of countries, has gained 3.5 per cent since its launch but is still in deficit on an offer to bid basis. Mr Costance Baker, managing director of James Capel Unit Trust Managers, said the fund had the advantage of a broad spread of investments.

The fund raised £10 million at launch, and has taken in another £7 million since then.

BRIEFINGS

■ National Savings Certificates of the 30th Issue will start to mature on February 13. They will then switch to the general extension rate, which is presently 5.01 per cent tax free. Savers can reinvest in the 34th Issue or switch into Series A Capital Bonds which offer a gross annual return of 12 per cent over five years.

■ TSB has launched a Sterling deposit fund aiming for a high rate of income through its

offices in Jersey. The fund, which has a current gross yield of 13.8 per cent, will invest in certificates of deposit, Treasury bills and short-dated gilts. There is an upfront charge of 3 per cent, an annual management charge of 0.625 per cent and a minimum investment of £1,000. Tel 0264 56789.

■ Sun Life has introduced a discretionary management service for investors with at least £15,000 to spare. Investors will have a choice of four levels of risk and not be restricted to Sun Life products. There is a charge of 0.8 per cent for Sun Life Portfolios and 1 per cent for independent portfolios. Tel 01-606 7788.

■ Alliance & Leicester Building Society has increased the

top interest rate on its Capital Choice account to 12 per cent after tax. The rate is due on investments of £1,000 or more held at 18 months' notice. The rate on three months' notice is raised to 10.8 per cent.

■ Northern Rock Building Society has introduced a car insurance package which includes free accident recovery and discounts for sole women drivers. Key club membership and uninsured loss recovery insurance are also thrown in. The insurance is only available on Freephone 0800 591 394.

■ A private health plan linked to life insurance is part of a new package from NM Financial Management. The Optimum Healthcare Plan includes a 32.5 per cent starter

discount for NM life policy holders and there is automatic acceptance for anyone between 18 and 65. Holiday insurance is also included. Tel 0705 372 222.

■ Yorkshire Bank has introduced Business Card, a charge card for business expenses, with no fees in the first year. Part of the Visa network, the card includes discounts on car hire and hotel costs and waives the £10 annual fee until September. It is available to companies, clubs, societies, sole traders and partnerships.

■ An investment bond paying net interest of 11.75 per cent on £25,000 or more has been launched by Britannia Building Society. The fixed rate bond is the second in the series.

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South-east Asia in sights of new trust

By Jon Ashworth

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Diane Seymour-Williams

region," said Mr Fraher, "and we don't want to be seen to be encouraging investment there without proper advice."

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Anthony Baker, managing director of James Capel Unit Trust Managers, said the fund had the advantage of a broad spread of investments.

The fund raised £10 million at launch and has taken a further £2 million since then.

FAMILY MONEY

Jon Ashworth reports on a life insurance version of timeshare

Charges dim returns on holiday property bond

Record levels of new business are expected this year by a scheme that combines life insurance and property and throws in a holiday on top. But anyone tempted by the direct mail advertising for the Holiday Property Bond, now falling through domestic letterboxes, should take a keen note of the charges.

The bond has attracted nearly £52 million since its launch in 1983 and is proving a popular alternative to timeshare schemes for British holidaymakers. However, the investor who does not take a holiday at one of the scheme's developments could only expect about half the return he or she would get from a building society.

Investors in the bond pay a single premium towards a whole-of-life insurance policy, underwritten by Isle of Man Assurance. Once a hefty 25 per cent front-end charge has been deducted, 60 per cent of the remainder goes into a property fund investing in a range of holiday developments. The final 40 per cent is placed in Eurobonds to provide income to cover the scheme's running costs.

The bond allows investors to take a regular holiday in one of several developments as well as sharing in any growth in the value of properties. A small element of life cover is provided on top.

Mr Colin Kniveton, who manages the bond for Isle of Man Assurance, said linking it

I've just paid the Bond charges....
You don't want an ice cream as well?



to a life policy made investing in property possible. "Unit trust funds alone are not allowed to invest in property. Using a single premium life policy allows us to achieve our investments and throw in some cover as an added extra," he said, adding that most of the proceeds of the initial charge went on marketing and promotion.

"We guarantee that 18.5 per cent of the initial 25 per cent charge will be spent on marketing and advertising. The logic means more income for the fund, more properties in which to invest and a wider

choice of holidays for investors," added Mr Kniveton.

The charge was set at 20 per cent until January 1989 but was increased to cover the cost of extra marketing. Of the estimated £15 million invested in the Holiday Property Bond last year, as much as £3.75 million would have been taken in initial charges. Of that, £2.8 million would have been absorbed by advertising. Villa Owners Club of Newcastle, the promoter, would have taken £600,000 in commission and fees for its direct sales force. Isle of Man Assurance would

have received about £260,000 in commission; and around £100,000, or 0.75 per cent, would have made the fee to trustees.

Mr Geoffrey Baber, managing director of Villa Owners Club, said the bond was being steadily promoted in the UK. "Timeshare is the obvious competition but the bond stands alone as an investment-based product," he said.

The property fund invests in 16 locations worldwide, including over 400 apartments in "traditional" timeshare areas such as Tenerife, Lanzarote, Majorca and Florida. Investors are awarded points according to how much they pay in. These are added up towards an annual holiday. Investors who do not take a holiday in any year can translate their points into a cash payout, worth about 5 per cent of their investment. According to Isle of Man Assurance, only some 3 per cent of investors surrender policies each year and about a third top up policies to improve holiday options.

At least £1,000 must be invested in the bond to begin with, the minimum for top-ups being £250. The latest mailed advertisement indicates that a newspaper city editor has invested but Isle of Man Assurance would not reveal who he was.

Trustees of the bond are Singer and Friedlander, the merchant bank, and manager of Eurobond investments.

L & G to cover share index falls

Recent sharp falls in world stock markets have encouraged Legal & General to launch a unit trust package with a built-in safety net for the cautious investor.

The scheme uses an insurance policy to protect against decreases in the value of the FT-SE 100 share index. It is geared to lump sum investment in the group's UK Recovery Trust or its Equity

Income Trust. The insurance will kick in if the index drops over a period chosen by the client — either three, four or five years. Cost of the cover is 5 per cent of the investment.

Mrs Michelle Barber, director of Unit Funds, said the scheme was thought to be the first of its kind to offer 100 per cent protection against a drop in the FT-SE 100. "The simple message is it will

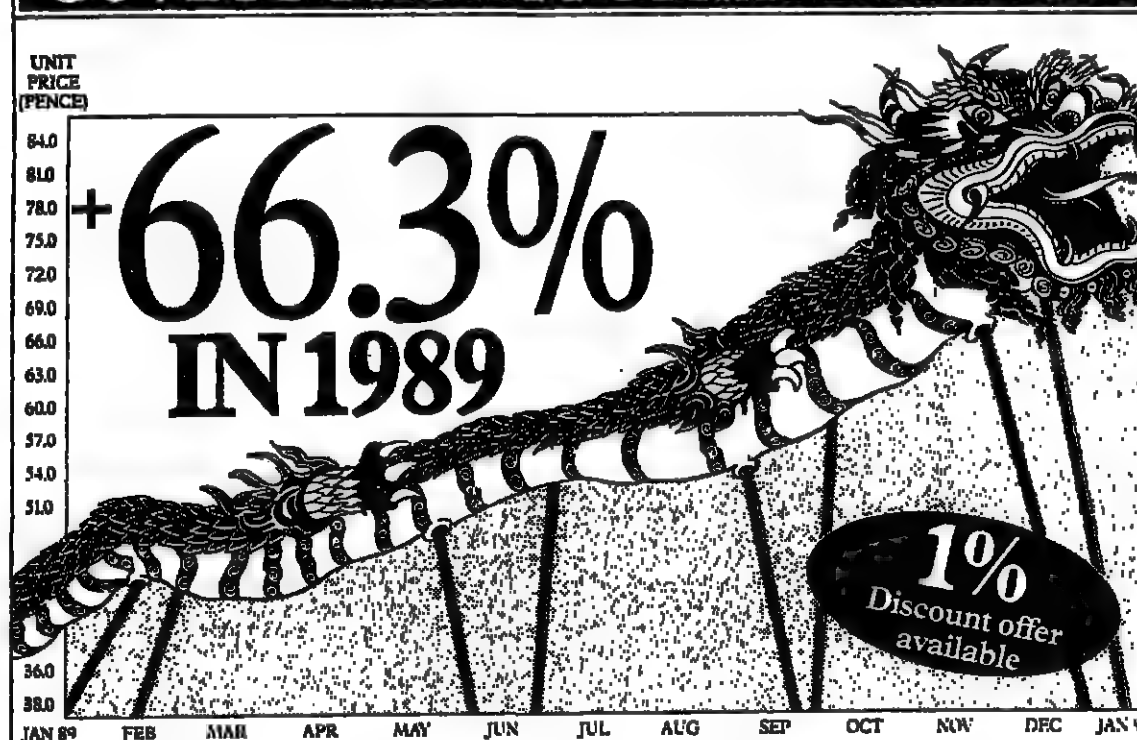
provide peace of mind to investors who like the potential of equities but are worried about sharp falls. Through the scheme they know they will be covered."

How much protection they can expect will depend on the number of units held and the size of any decrease in the index. If the funds outperform the index, investors could receive more than they have

put in but they may not recover all their money should the funds do the reverse.

Investors can apply for the cover now but it will only take effect from March 9. Apart from the 5 per cent premium, normal unit trust charges will apply. The upfront charge is 6 per cent, and the annual management fee 1.5 per cent. The minimum investment is £2,500.

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*Source: Based on Planned Savings Data Services Group Weighted Performance Rankings of the 40 largest unit trust groups (1.1.80-31.1.90). Other unit trusts: Fidelity ranks No. 1 over 2-10 years and No. 2 over 1 year. *Offer to bid 4/11/89 to 1/1/90. Fidelity Investment Services Ltd, Member of IMRO and LAUTRO. Member of the UTA.



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time of going to press, but may depend on an individual's circumstances. The level and basis of taxation may change, and this cannot be foreseen. *Estimated yield based on an offer price of 104.64p sd on 12th January 1990. It must be appreciated that interest rates obtainable may vary on a daily basis, and therefore, this yield will fluctuate accordingly.



To: David J. Leach, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, FREEPOST, Charlton Place, ANULOVER, Hampshire, SP01 1BR. Please send me your brochure describing the TSB Sterling Deposit Fund in detail.

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FAMILY MONEY

That sinking feeling in the shade of a tree

Rodney Hobson notes how subsidence claims rise as the rainfall average decreases

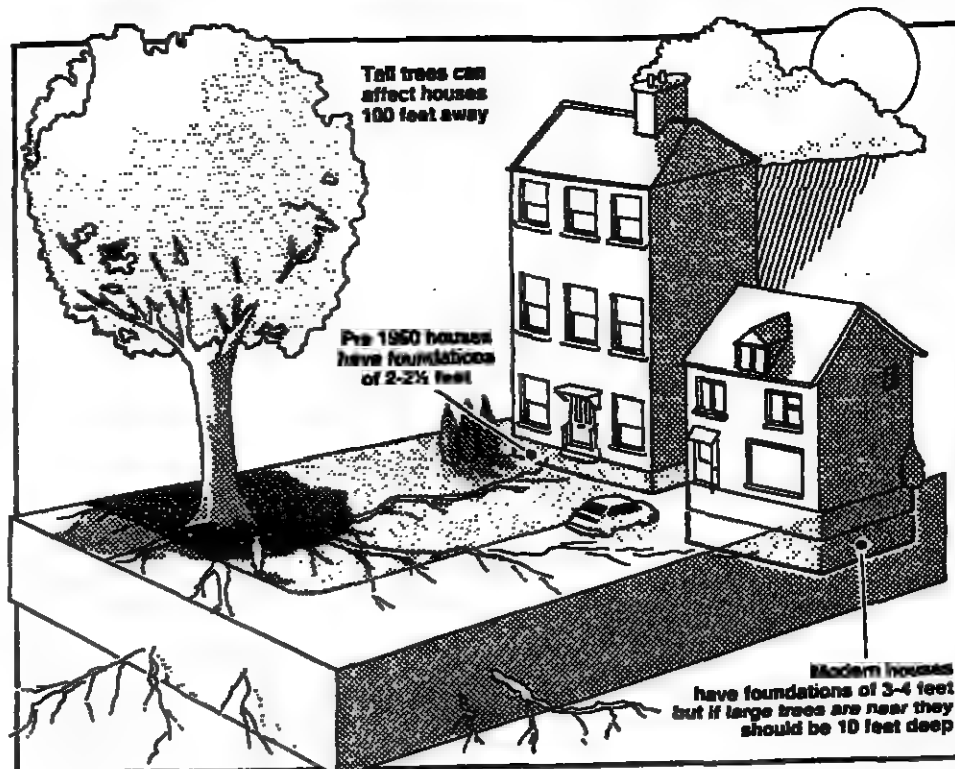
Subsidence and heave, the twin terrors of home owners are back. The drying up of soil, followed by saturation when rain does come, has produced a rise in insurance claims.

Mr Mike Auld of the Guardian Royal Exchange puts the figures in perspective. Subsidence claims normally come into GRE at the rate of 80 to 90 a month. In September to November the figure leapt to 100. And December saw 150 claims. Not all cracks proved to be subsidence but the majority certainly will be.

Royal Insurance admitted when announcing 1989 third quarter figures that it had subsidence claims totalling £24 million. GRE puts its figure at several millions of pounds. Stockbroker's analysts specialising in insurance expect Sun Alliance to have fared worst when final figures for 1989 are announced.

Subsidence has arisen from an abnormal rainfall pattern, with only June and October having the usual amount of rainfall in the seven months from May to November. May was driest, with 16.3mm in England and Wales, only 29 per cent of the average figure for the month.

September had half its normal downfall and July, August and November less than two-



thirds. The dry spell was sandwiched between downpours in April and December, when 160 per cent of normal rain was recorded.

High on the risk list are houses built on shrinkable clay. Heavily populated London and the South-east are vulnerable. So too is the Bournemouth area, where Mr Alan Harris, a consulting engineer, says the normal 25 to 30 outstanding cases has soared to 300. Gwent is another at-risk zone.

Subsidence is the most com-

mon large claim that any householder is likely to face. The bill for remedial work is unlikely to be less than £6,000 and Mr Harris has handled one case of £95,000. In extreme cases it may be cheaper to rebuild than to underpin.

Insurance companies had hoped the last severe dry spell in 1976 would have shaken out most of the trouble. Older houses subject to subsidence were treated, the argument went, and newer houses were built on sounder foundations.

Mr Harris confirms modern

foundations go down three to four feet against two feet or two foot six inches pre-1960. However, he says knowledge of what causes subsidence is growing and new factors come into consideration.

Tall trees in tight suburban housing plots are sucking moisture out of the ground, with roots spreading under houses. "As a rough guide, if a tree is half its height away from a building on clay then it is likely to be having a significant effect on the foundations," Mr Harris says.

In other words, a tree that is 30 feet tall would affect any building up to 15 feet away.

Foundations of houses near to trees may need to go down as much as 10 feet. Householders in areas vulnerable to subsidence should be fully insured for the cost of rebuilding the house. Increasing the value of insurance in line with inflation may be insufficient. If the sum insured is, say, three-quarters of the cost of rebuilding, the insurance company will pay only three-quarters of the claim.

Insurance companies have a formula for working out rebuilding costs based on the total floor area of every room and the type and age of the building. Where advice is given by the insurance company — and it is well worth getting the insurer to explain the policy in detail — it is best to obtain that advice in writing to avoid a dispute later.

Even where a homeowner is fully insured, he or she is likely to be out of pocket, at least temporarily. The insured normally has to meet the first £500 of a subsidence claim. And contractors will present a monthly account as work progresses, while insurance companies prefer a total bill when they are satisfied that everything has been put right.

However, Mr Auld insists: "There is no question of insurance companies dragging their feet. It takes time to assess the situation and take remedial action. It is in the insurance company's interests to pay claims quickly."

Lindsay Cook deciphers the alphabet of tax coding

Keeping up with the letter of the tax law

Nearly 7 million notices of coding were sent out by the Inland Revenue this week and the married man's allowance of £4,375.

These give the total amount that can be earned in the next tax year starting on April 6 before tax has to be paid.

Accountants estimate that about 1 per cent of the notices are usually wrong resulting in up to 60,000 people paying too much or too little tax in the following year.

But this year with many couples having their codes changed because of independent taxation and an extra million codes being issued more could be incorrect.

If you have not notified the Inland Revenue of changes in your circumstances such as getting married or failed to fill in the tax return sent out last April then you may be issued with a lower code than you should have or receive no notice at all.

The code, which is also sent to your employer, is expressed as three figures and a letter. The figure is an abbreviation of how much your personal allowances add up to. In the case of a single person with no additional allowances the code would be 278, indicating that the person can earn £2,785 before he or she has to

pay tax. A married man with no further allowances would have the code 437 and the married man's allowance of £4,375.

The higher the tax code, the more allowances you have, and the less tax you pay. In addition to the basic allowances there are additional smaller ones such as the blind person's allowance.

At £540 this is worth more than £2 a week to those who are registered blind. For many jobs there are flat rate allow-

• The higher tax code you have, the more allowances you will receive and the less tax you will pay •

ances agreed between the appropriate trade union and the Inland Revenue.

These cover the cost of replacing or maintaining tools and buying special clothing for work. Typically they work out at £40 to £60 a year and should be included in your allowances.

The letter stands for your tax category. Single people or married women have the letter L. Married men and women receiving the married couple's allowance because their husbands do not earn

enough to use it should have the letter H. Single parents receiving the additional personal allowance also have the letter H. Married men over 65 should have the letter V and single people and married women over 65 the letter P.

People with other taxable income such as widows, divorcees, people with pensions from previous employers or the state will have the code F.

Those with a second job who have no tax allowances left to set against the income should have the letters BR indicating that tax will be deducted at the basic rate.

The letters OT also indicate that no allowances have been given but higher rate tax may be deducted depending on income. A few lucky people have the letters NT, which means no tax is deducted whatever the pay.

If you think your code is wrong you should contact your local tax office and the mistake may be amended before April. Otherwise your employer will deduct the wrong amount of tax from your pay.

A guide should be included with the notice of coding and further information in the leaflet IR 34 on Income Tax and Pay As You Earn, which is available from tax offices.

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LORD HALSBURY.

for the residuary beneficiaries. It should be remembered that, as with a stock market investment, the value of the investment and the income from it can go down as well as up.

This, of course, is where the key element of TrustWorthy comes in. Pearl has made sure that the residuary beneficiaries are fully protected against any capital loss, and meanwhile trustees can be confident in the security of Pearl's long-term investment performance.

In short, Pearl's new TrustWorthy fulfils trustees' legal requirement to strike a balance between the needs of the life tenant and residuary beneficiary in one simple and innovative investment package.

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FAMILY MONEY

SIB scheme faces 'conflict' critics

Dr Marjorie Mowlem, the Labour MP for Redcar, Cleveland, has put down parliamentary questions this week querying the absence of an independent adjudicator and the payout ceiling for the Securities and Investments Board compensation scheme.

More questions are being drafted by other opposition MPs who are also concerned about the scheme.

Mrs Mowlem, Labour's city spokesman, put down questions on Thursday on the running of the compensation fund and expects to receive answers next week.

The administrators of the scheme, which operates from the headquarters of the Securities and Investments Board, deny any basic design fault and say that they pay out faster than most liquidators could.

However, they give a warning that investors have to be aware of the scheme's limitations and must take action to protect themselves.

Most importantly this means avoiding any dealings with firms still operating under "interim" authorization from the Securities and Investments Board, as these are specifically excluded from the compensation arrangements which cover up to £48,000 of a £50,000 investment.

The main complaint about a conflict of interest came from George Foulkes, MP for



Questions in the House: Marjorie Mowlem, MP for Redcar, Carrick, Cumbria and Doon Valley, Strathclyde, who last week met the administrators of the scheme, Mr Eddie Ray, the chairman, and Miss Myra Kinghorn, the company secretary, to discuss payments of about £55,000 to three more of the 92 investors in Greenan Investment Management of Ayr, Strathclyde.

Greenan failed in April 1989 and the latest payment brought total compensation paid since then to £457,000. "The problem with Greenan was that lots of people were claiming, but the books were a work of fiction," said Mr Ray, contrasting this situation with the earlier collapse of Allied Equity.

Thanks to a "perfect" set of books at that company, investors were paid out within 18 weeks of the failure.

However, Mr Ray estimated that investors would have faced a delay of a further 18 months if they had been forced to wait for a liquidator to sort out the firm rather than being paid under the scheme.

Mr Foulkes said that on the whole the payments were satisfactory. Scottish law has actually made 17 of them better off than they would have been in the rest of Britain.

The scheme set up by the Securities and Investments Board to pay compensation to victims of failed investment businesses has come under fire over its independence from the industry says Barbara Ellis

got to consider the interests of the members as well as clients."

Although he considered the outcome for Greenan investors reasonably satisfactory, Mr Foulkes said he was constantly aware of a threat of conflict of interest, since the people deciding on the payments were the same as those responsible for providing the money.

Miss Kinghorn said she felt

paying the right people the right amounts," she said.

Poor record keeping slowed down the process, and this applied to investors as well as the firms they used. Mr Ray noted, as an example, that a small number of Greenan claims had been rejected because although the people said they had handed the firm some thousands of pounds in cash, they had no written proof.

Claims were also rejected if they related to a fall in the value of an investment. This was significant as so many Greenan customers had invested just before the October 1987 crash and were still showing losses by April 1989.

Greenan customers were able to claim the value of investments made in 1987 and still held by the firm when it failed. But claims alleging negligent advice or dealings before the compensation scheme began operating in August 1988 were turned down.

Next in line for compensation scheme scrutiny are the



Next on the list: JGM Financial Services, of Marlow Road, Rochdale, Greater Manchester customers of JGM Financial Services, of Rochdale, Greater Manchester, the trading name of John Gerald Malone, declared in default last week, after failing to meet the £1.29 million court order taken out by SIB in November.

Mr Malone was a member of the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, but belonged to a category which was not allowed to hold clients' money or undertake portfolio management.

However, Miss Kinghorn said that this fact would not disqualify investors from compensation cover if JGM had broken the rules and taken their money.

"The scheme covers firms authorized for the conduct of investment business and that is what JGM Financial Ser-

VICES was authorized for," she explained.

The scheme will be writing to JGM investors shortly asking for details of their claims, and Mr Ray estimates that

perhaps 200 to 300 valid claims will result - about half the total client list. He said there was likely to be a significant delay in settling all of these - probably at least 12 months.

"We know we have incomplete records and an individual who has clearly confused his own assets with the business's assets - we are

going to have the greatest difficulty in putting a ring fence around this," he forecast.

As well as counselling investors to keep documentary proof of any investment dealings, Mr Ray strongly advised against any trade with "interim" authorized firms.

Nearly two years after applying to the self-regulatory bodies they needed to join to stay in business, these firms have not yet managed to prove their suitability for membership and so are not covered by the compensation scheme.

SIB issues a full list of interim authorized firms each month and will check individual names by telephone on 01-929 3652.

"I can't see any reason to trade with interim authorized firms," said Mr Ray.

habet of tax coding

with the tax law

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Staying safe if gifts go to school

The presents that delighted at Christmas now face the perils of life at school or university. If they are lost or damaged, parents and the lucky recipient, the possession were not covered by insurance.

Some household policies do not extend to items stored in dormitories, but there are specialist policies to cover costly games kit or musical instruments.

The Holmwood Students' Personal Effects Insurance, underwritten by Lloyd's, will, for £2.75 a term, cover the property - including on journeys to and from school. It gives cover up to £500, with a one-item limit of £150. Claims below £10 are excluded, but the policy covers bicycles and will include school trips abroad, of up to 30 days.

The higher £5 per term premium gives £1,000 cover. This has a single item limit of £250, with a £500 limit for musical instruments.

The policies are written through schools participating

Musical instruments can often turn out to be particularly difficult to insure

in the scheme operated by Holmwood, a subsidiary of Brown Shipley.

Parents should watch for exclusion clauses on all such insurance. Usually, policies exclude motor cycles, cash and contact lenses, as well as breakage of sports equipment. Check whether a child has to have a locker with an effective lock for insurance cover.

Those in halls of residence should find out if whether they are covered if a thief could gain easy access to the room.

Harrison Beaumont, the broker, of Witney, Oxfordshire, offers personal property insurance for those aged 16 and above through with Norwich Union. The lowest premium is £26 a year for £2,000 cover for personal belongings and up to £1,000 for musical instruments and fittings. There is a £500 single article limit.

There are three zones for cover in halls of residence under this policy. Up to £65 is charged for Liverpool, London and Manchester, £44 for Glasgow, Leeds and Newcastle and £33 elsewhere.

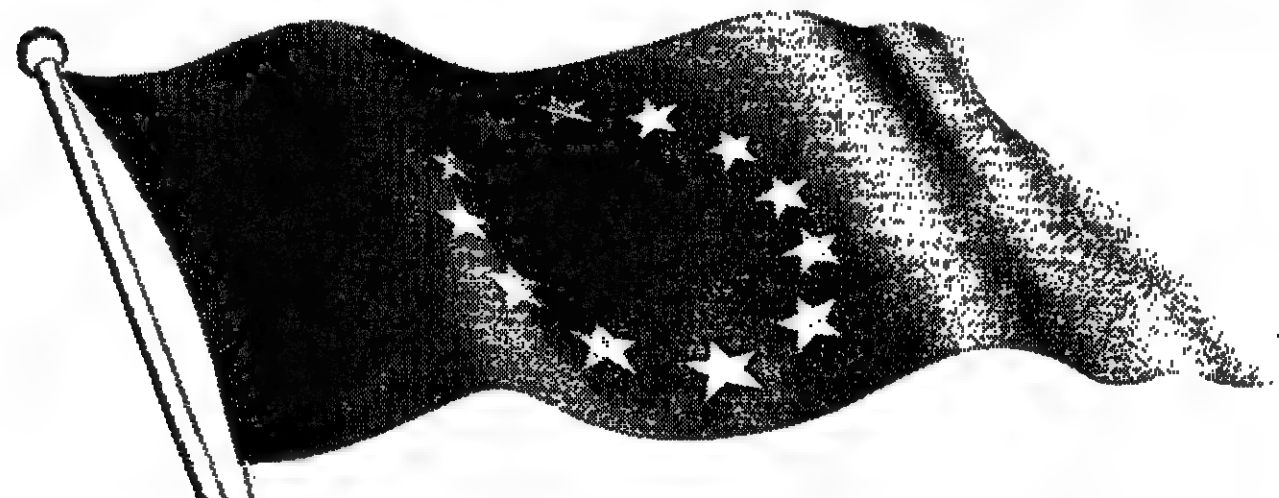
Musical instruments can often turn out to be particularly difficult to insure. Norwich Union, through Harrison Beaumont, will cover a violin worth up to £1,500 for £15 a year in a flat or hall.

The main alternative is to insure a student's property in normal home contents insurance, usually under "all risks". Most insurers will understand this if a letter giving the term address is sent.

Conal Gregory

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FAMILY MONEY

Neil Bennett assesses the field a year after Classic cantered out

Stampede for interest follows the black horse

It is a year since Lloyds Bank launched its interest-bearing Classic account, and threw the retail banking world into turmoil. Today 4 million bank customers have switched to the new accounts, while the defection from the traditional services continues inexorably.

The switch to interest-bearing accounts cost Britain's banks an estimated £225 million in profits last year, and will be reflected all too clearly in their year-end figures, published in March. At least it has protected their traditional business from the building societies for the time being.

The decision by Lloyds to pay interest, quickly followed by the other main clearers, was inevitable. The banks were faced with the rapid rise in the popularity of the building societies' current accounts.

Nationwide Anglia picked up 700,000 customers for its FlexiAccount in the first 17 months of operation, in what was considered a relatively stable market. But it has not relished the competition from the banks. Since their accounts began it has reduced the interest rate on the FlexiAccount against a background of rising interest rates and has stopped advertising it.

Some banks have suggested that Nationwide Anglia might decide the account is too costly to run and will close it. But it is more likely to fall into disuse as it no longer offers the best deal. It pays from 2.75 per cent to 5.75 per cent. A spokesman said: "Now the initial burst is over we are consolidating and looking at



Changed views: new style current accounts are part of the high street financial services war

what other services the society can offer."

The banks know the current account is the central service around which they could base their other personal finance products. What is more surprising is that the banks had access to interest-free funds of more than £35 billion for so long. Admittedly, they had to finance part of the costs of the retail banking network, but they were still more attractive than the cost of wholesale money.

Lloyds has been the most successful at the new accounts, mainly because it was the first to take the leap. To date 1 million of its 4.5 million customers have switched to the Classic account, although 200,000 of these are new customers. The account pays

between 5 and 7 per cent, with a free £100 overdraft. There is a £6 pound monthly fee on overdraft accounts. Classic is thought to have cost £30 million since its launch, while £19 million was paid out in interest in the first six months.

While Barclays offers a similar system, and has had similar success, National Westminster is lagging behind. So far only 600,000 people have opened Current Plus accounts, out of a total of 6.5 million. The bank does not offer the £100 buffer overdraft, and charges are a minimum of £12 for a quarter.

But it is the Midland's products that have come in for the greatest criticism in the banking world, even though at an estimated £20 million, they have been the cheapest to pro-

duce. The bank's three new products have been accused of being dear and complicated.

Vector, for example, charges £10 a month whether the account is in credit or not. While Orchard, the mass-market account, has attracted steady business, Meridian, intended for older customers, has yet to become popular.

Midland counters the criticisms by saying the accounts are not complicated if studied, and their system is more flexible than others. About 1 million of its 4.5 million accounts have been switched.

The new current accounts have become an established feature of the financial services war in our high streets. The next battle will be over new services, with home banking set to become a key issue.

Banks to clamp down on identity

By Jon Ashworth

Banks and building societies are demanding more proof of identity from their customers in an attempt to clamp down on money laundering and other illegal activities. The move has annoyed customers who have grown used to a more relaxed approach.

The tougher stand follows a request from the Building Societies Commission for more stringent checks on accounts. There was concern over the ease with which accounts could be opened to negotiate stolen cheques, using false names and addresses.

There were also fears about the ease with which banks and building societies could be used for the transfer and deposit of money linked to criminal activities such as drug trafficking.

Last July, the Commission wrote: "In the past, many societies have not thought it necessary to check on the bona fides of those opening and operating 'pass book' based accounts, in contrast to the practice of banks in respect of those operating current accounts. This is because the pass book system is not open to the same abuse as a cheque book-operated account."

It said tighter measures were necessary because of the growing use of building society accounts for "laundering" cheques. There was also evidence that criminals were using accounts as a relatively anonymous home for large sums of money.

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Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future success as unit trust prices can fluctuate and investors may not get back the amount they have invested.

*Offer to bid net income re-invested. Source Micropol.

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Zone-in now for some enterprising tax-breaks

Investors hoping to cut their tax bill will soon be able to choose between two property schemes using the tax advantages of Enterprise Zones.

This week, Property Enterprise Managers launched two trusts through which it aims to raise £52 million to invest in a development in Salford, Manchester. On Monday, Laser Richmond launches a £48 million scheme to allow investors to spread their holdings between London, Manchester and the West Midlands.

Like Business Expansion Schemes, the projects give investors a tax-efficient way of investing in new developments. The idea is that rental on the buildings will cover the cost of interest charges, leaving investors to share in any growth in the properties.

The two new Property Enterprise Trusts (PETs), ninth and tenth in the series, have purchased two office buildings in Salford's Exchange Quay development.



Shaw: entrée to commercials Companies and individuals must invest at least £5,000 in the trusts, and hold the investments for at least five years.

Mr Mark Shaw, executive director of Property Enterprise Managers, said the trusts give smaller investors a way into large commercial properties. "The cost of commercial buildings is usually way beyond the average investor.

The trusts unitize properties into shares, allowing subscribers to offset about 95 per cent of the purchase cost against taxable income."

Since the first PET in 1983, £172 million has been invested in properties under management. The most popular amount has been £10,000, although £45,000 is average.

The trusts have a minimum yield of 6.25 per cent after charges. There is an upfront fee of 7 per cent, including 2 per cent commission for intermediaries. There is an annual management fee of 0.13 per cent.

Laser Richmond has taken the idea further by giving investors a choice of three developments. Three trusts with a value of about £16 million each have been formed to invest in commercial property in London, Manchester and Dudley in the West Midlands.

The minimum £5,000 can be spread between the trusts, which have been fully underwritten. There is a minimum net yield of 6.25 per cent.

Laser and Richmond were launched as two separate companies, but recently merged through a joint venture between Johnson Fry and Richard Ellis, the original backers.

Mr Tracy Benjamin, a director of Johnson Fry Corporate Finance, said many investors preferred to diversify rather than placing all their capital in one building.

"This should be seen as a medium- to long-term investment," he added. "It is not designed for speculation."

There is an initial charge of 4 per cent, and 2 per cent commission for intermediaries. The annual management fee is 0.25 per cent.

Jon Ashworth

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 21).

Share	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+8	+5	+2	+7	+4		
2	+5	+2	+2	+3	+3		
3	+8	+3	+4	+6	+2		
4	+8	+4	+1	+7	+3		
5	+5	+3	+3	+5	+2		
6	+5	+3	+1	+4	+2		
7	+4	+2	+5	+8	+1		
8	+7	+5	+2	+7	+5		
9	+5	+2	+2	+5	+1		
10	+3	+2	+4	+7	+1		
11	+2	+1	+6	+8	+1		
12	+7	+4	+3	+6	+1		
13	+2	+2	+3	+8	+2		
14	+4	+2	+2	+6	+2		
15	+7	+6	+1	+6	+5		
16	+6	+2	+3	+5	+1		
17	+9	+6	+2	+7	+6		
18	+5	+3	+5	+7	+2		
19	+6	+1	+3	+4	+1		
20	+9	+4	+1	+8	+4		
21	+5	+4	+5	+5	+1		
22	+8	+1	+3	+4	+2		
23	+3	+3	+3	+8	+1		
24	+4	+2	+2	+5	+2		
25	+9	+6	+1	+7	+3		
26	+6	+3	+4	+7	+1		
27	+3	+3	+3	+9	+1		
28	+6	+3	+1	+5	+1		
29	+7	+5	+1	+5	+2		
30	+5	+2	+1	+4	+3		
31	+7	+2	+4	+5	+1		
32	+4	+3	+3	+6	+2		
33	+2	+3	+4	+9	+1		
34	+8	+5	+1	+6	+3		
35	+8	+5	+1	+8	+2		
36	+3	+2	+4	+7	+1		
37	+5	+1	+2	+6	+2		
38	+3	+1	+3	+9	+1		
39	+6	+2	+5	+6	+1		
40	+3	+1	+3	+7	+1		
41	+8	+5	+1	+6	+3		
42	+7	+4	+3	+7	+1		
43	+5	+2	+4	+7	+2		
44	+6	+1	+2	+4	+3		

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FAMILY MONEY

Melinda Wittstock with a cautionary tale for city dwellers

Being left flat is an illegal tenant's worst nightmare

Banks to clamp down on identity

By Jon Ashworth

Banks and building societies are demanding more proof of identity from their customers in an attempt to clamp down on money laundering and other illegal activities. The move has annoyed customers who have grown used to a more relaxed approach.

The tougher stand follows a request from the Building Societies Commission for more stringent checks on accounts. There was concern over the ease with which accounts could be opened to negotiate stolen cheques, using false names and addresses.

There were also fears about the ease with which banks and building societies could be used for the transfer and deposit of money linked to criminal activities such as drug trafficking.

Last July, the Commission wrote: "In the past, many societies have not thought it necessary to check on the true identities of those opening and operating 'pass book' bank accounts, in contrast to the practice of banks in respect of those operating current accounts. This is because the pass book system is not open to the same abuse as a cheque book-operated account."

It said tighter measures were necessary because of the growing use of building society accounts for "laundering" cheques. There was also evidence that criminals were using accounts as a relatively anonymous home for large sums of money.

Trying to find decent rented accommodation in London is a nightmare for most flat-hunters. Even worse, it appears that even with a proper lease a tenant may be flung on the street if the landlord falls behind on the mortgage.

With mortgage interest rates having risen from about 9.8 per cent to 14.5 per cent in a year, many homeowners, particularly first-time buyers struggling to meet monthly mortgage repayments, have been forced by financial worries to rent out all or parts of their homes.

But the great majority of homeowners violate their mortgage agreements by renting their property without telling the lender. Mortgage lenders have no legal obligation to give "illegal tenants" any warning before unceremoniously kicking them out onto the street, though most banks and building societies say they would try to take a sympathetic attitude.

One tenant discovered quite by accident one year into her lease that a building society was threatening to repossess her flat. She had mistakenly opened a letter to her landlord indicating that he had fallen into arrears by more than £10,000.

"I had been paying £500 a month for a year but he hadn't used any of it to pay the mortgage," she said. "I rang the Citizens Advice Bureau, who told me I had no rights



"I think you have shown a most sympathetic attitude, young man."

because I was effectively an illegal tenant. They said I could be asked to leave within days of the building society proceeding with repossession."

The landlord finally negotiated an arrangement with his building society allowing the tenant to pay her rent directly to the building society to go towards his mortgage repayments and arrears.

But the tenant's worries did not stop there. "A number of lending outfits soon started banging on the front door at 8 am on weekends, but eventually they gave up and went away," she said.

"Then a letter from the local

authority arrived threatening to repossess the furniture if a £1,000 bill was not paid within days. Luckily, the landlord's grandfather ended up paying the bill."

Though tenants do not have any rights as assured tenants if a mortgage-paying landlord has not obtained permission to have tenants from the mortgage lender, it is often impossible for a tenant to find out if a landlord has a mortgage or not, let alone whether he or she is actually paying it.

Given the scarcity of good rented accommodation, most would-be tenants are themselves put on audition by the landlord; any questions about

tion. While we don't take kindly to people renting out their flats without getting our permission, we will take a sympathetic attitude to those who make contact with us."

Mr Bob Bridgman, the manager of mortgage services at Abbey National, said the former building society would give such tenants "ample warning" of an imminent repossession before seeking a court order, a process that can take another 28 to 42 days.

"I don't deny that it is quite a difficult situation. A tenant really has to get confirmation that the mortgage lender has approved a tenancy, but he or she can only really rely on a homeowner's word," he said.

Building Society Association figures show that the number of homeowners having fallen into arrears rose by 20 per cent to 45,100 in the first half of 1989 compared with the second half of 1988.

Though the BSA does not yet have figures for the second half of 1989, it believes the trend is worsening. The Labour Party estimated last September that 380,000 homeowners were behind in their mortgage payments.

Tenants are only protected under the Act if their landlords secure permission from the lender or take out mortgages after the tenant has signed a lease. If there are any problems, the tenant becomes the tenant of the building society or lender.

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The trusts utilize properties in various locations, allowing subscribers to benefit from 95 per cent of the purchase cost against taxable income.

The first PET in 1981, £100 million has been invested in properties under management. The most popular investment has been £10,000, with 145,000 is average.

The trusts have a minimum investment of £25 per share. There is an annual dividend of 10 per cent, including a 5 per cent commission for subscribers. There is an annual management fee of 0.15 per cent.

For Richmond has taken the idea further by giving subscribers a share of three different trusts. Three trusts are available, each about £10 million. The trusts have been formed in London, Manchester and the West Midlands.

Each trust has a minimum £5,000 investment. The trusts have been fully underwritten by a minimum of £25 per share.

Each trust has a separate management company. The trusts are managed by a team of experienced property professionals.

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How to stand out in a house buyer's market

1990 is the year to buy a house, if the latest rash of predictions is to be believed. This may be good news for buyers, but is small comfort for sellers who must now try even harder to close a sale.

As it is, many vendors have become resigned to accepting offers well below what they originally had in mind or forgoing a sale.

Apart from heading your agent's advice on the asking price, what can you do to speed the selling process? "Because the supply is dramatically greater than demand and purchasers are overwhelmed with properties, the whole trick at the moment is to stand out from the rest," says Mr Trevor Kent, president of the National Association of Estate Agents.

He suggests insisting that sale details feature a colour photograph, even if this costs you up to £100 extra. It is, he said, a persuasive device that many agents are nonetheless cutting out to save costs.

Second, don't balk at displaying a "For Sale" board, especially if in a road of similar houses. It will be a signpost for the prospective purchaser.

Finally, do the "kerb appeal" check. "Stand outside, look at the house as though you're a buyer," Mr Kent says. "Does it look as if it's in tip-top condition? Is the garden tidy? Is the drive clogged with cars and a caravan? If it is, arrange to keep them round the corner. And don't let your son service his motorbike on the doorstep."

"Why? Because, presented

with details of up to 50 properties at a time, buyers can do no more than drive round, glancing at exteriors. It is vital to make the right impression at that point; the more viewers you have, the more likelihood of a sale."

Similar advice comes from Prudential Property Services in its 10-point plan designed to help vendors give their houses "homebuyer appeal."

This makes it clear that the old take-it-or-leave-it approach - unmade beds, half-decorated rooms, dogs on sofas - can be as off-putting as pressure-selling.

The PPS plan divides

● It is wise to show the best parts of your property at last as well as as at first ●

broadly into two sections - interior and exterior. It suggests that, outside, you should service the garden gate, trim the lawn, weed the flower-beds, paint the front door, check that the doorbell is working, and attend to rotting window-frames and gutters.

"These spell neglect to many buyers, and the possibility of a big repair bill. Inside, ensure that all is clean and tidy, but not clinical - windows, kitchen and bathroom should sparkle," the Pru says. "Have a blitz on loose handles and dripping taps."

"Redecoration is rarely necessary, but the odd lick of

paint can make first impressions so much more favourable. Also, good lighting makes the difference between a dingy, uninviting home and a bright, welcoming one."

Atmosphere is seen as a potent lure. "People often fall for houses because they sense they could live there; but remember to appeal to all their senses," the Pru advises. Cue soft lights, sweet music, fresh flowers, and the aroma of fresh coffee...

Be helpful, too. Provide information on fuel bills, give viewers a chance to walk round on their own, tell them you are willing to include carpets and curtains in the price - but don't force them. ("One man's style is another's bad taste").

"Show the best parts of your property last as well as first," the Pru says. "Try to leave all potential buyers with a good impression."

Having got the product right, leave salesmanship to the agent - it is what you are paying for; that, and his judgement on price. If too low, the result will be a stampede of grasping buyers - and if too high, none at all.

Always get a second or third opinion at the outset. Also consider the merits of a joint agency in reaching more prospective buyers (albeit at greater cost), or of offering a sole agent the incentive of some 1/2 per cent commission in advance on an agreed sale price - plus £100 for every £1,000 on top.

Charles Kersley

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1977 1st	1987 1st
1978 1st	1988 1st
1979 2nd	1989 3rd
1980 1st	
1981 2nd	
1982 3rd	
1983 4th	
1984 2nd	
1985 1st	
1986 1st	

PERSONAL PENSION PLANS PAST PERFORMANCE.

*The honour board above shows The Equitable's position in surveys of actual results for 20 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans carried out by *Planned Savings* magazine 1977-1989.*

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to premium income of all the companies surveyed.

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You can be forgiven, therefore, for thinking that all of those factors give us an unfair advantage over our competitors and that little else is required. There is, however, one other element to be mentioned, our expert investment team.

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*Planned Savings Survey - July 1989.

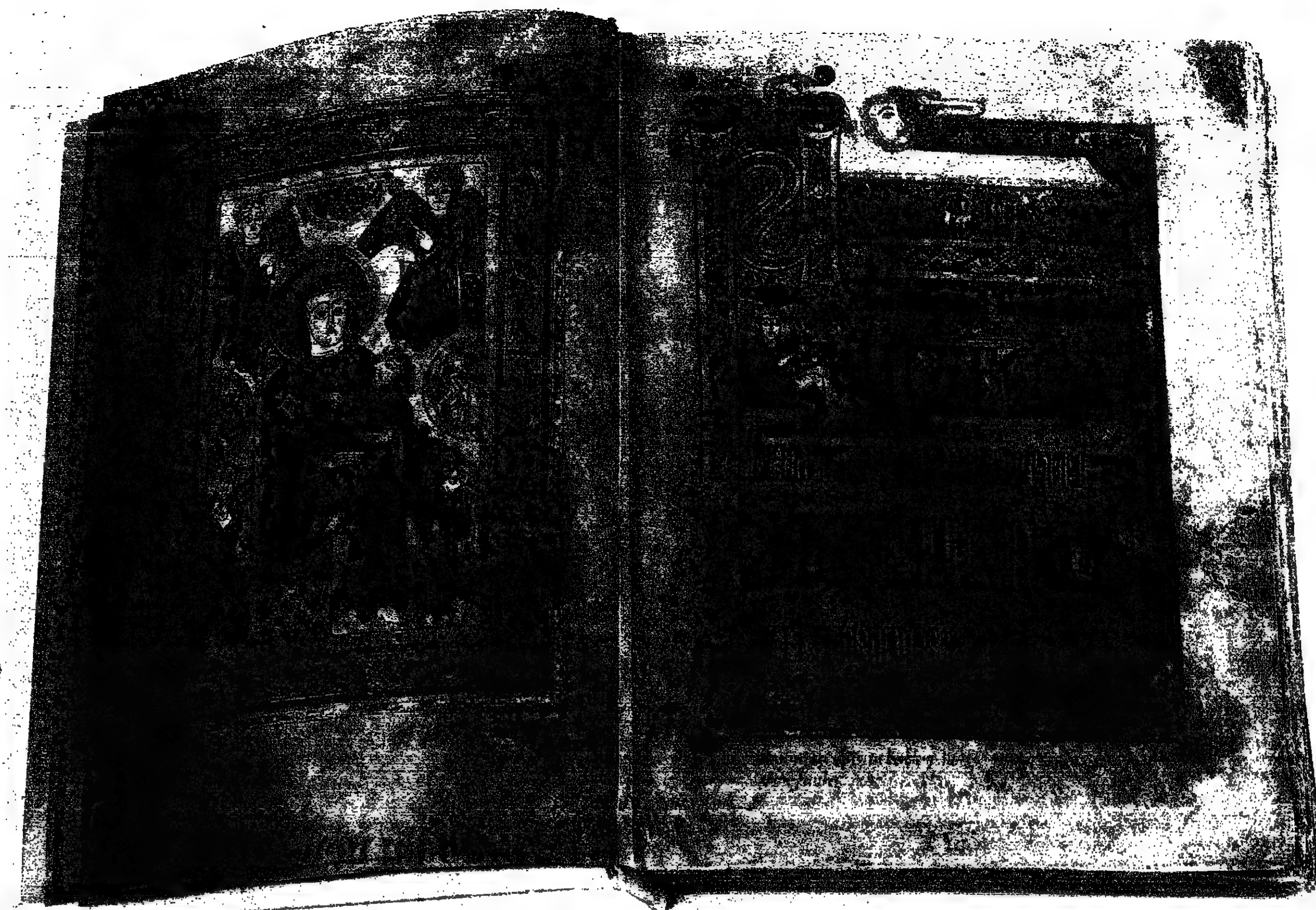


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SATURDAY JANUARY 20 1990

IN THE BEGINNING...

- BOOKS: WILLIAM TREVOR STORIES
- DRINK: MALT WHISKY
- EATING OUT: THE LONDON SUBURBS
- COOK: MAKING MARMALADE



Written scriptures were held in great reverence in medieval Ireland. Books of special sanctity were believed to bring good luck if carried into battle and worn in amulets. Scraps from their pages were swallowed as medicine. Water poured over them was thought to have healing properties. The holy manuscripts that the Viking raiders did not make bonfires of were at risk of being snipped and soaked into waste paper by the devout.

Small wonder, then, that so few written texts have survived from the days before the invention of printing, when literacy was a closed book to the majority, and every book was unique and mysterious, the fruit of endless hours of arcane labour. In later periods, church manuscripts were sometimes in danger of attack from hostile sects, and of damage through neglect. The wonder is that any survived at all.

Today, manuscripts such as the *Book of Kells*, the most extraordinary of all these survivors, are the greatest treasures of the libraries that possess them. They are cherished and protected with all the resources science can provide. But they are still unique, and therefore still as vulnerable as ever. Even today, the risk of destruction by fire or flood is not just theoretical, as the burning of Romania's National Library showed only last month. Illuminated manuscripts are so fragile that even the librarians who look after them hesitate to turn their pages too often, for fear of aggravating the wear and tear of centuries.

So it is good news that a full facsimile edition has been made of the *Book of Kells*, which is generally acknowledged to be the supreme achievement of the art of the decorated book. Created by monks of the Irish Church (though probably not in Ireland), in about the year 800, when most of Europe was deep in the turmoil of the Dark Ages, it is a text of the four Gospels, richly illuminated on almost every page. At various times in its history it has been stolen, mutilated, buried, neglected, lost and recovered.

The facsimile is an ultimate safeguard to knowledge of the book, and a significant advance in accessibility. It is closer to the original than the best editions available until now. Only one high-quality modern edition exists in colour, and it fully reproduces only 93 of the book's 680 pages.

The new complete edition is a collectors' item restricted to 1,480 leather-bound copies, priced at £8,950 each — a price which is not



ORIGINAL LABOUR OF LOVE — AND THE WORK ON ITS MODERN EQUIVALENT

going to bring the mastery of the scribes to every station bookstall. But it is the nearest thing to the original that print and electronics can contrive. After a thousand years, the *Book of Kells* is going into publication at last.

The project is the outcome of 10 years of planning by Urs Duggelin, a Swiss publisher who specialises in fine art editions. "I have encountered many obstacles in those years, but they did not stop me from pursuing my dream."

He found that Trinity College, Dublin, where the book had been kept for 300 years, was not easily

ONLY MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS THAT SURVIVED THE RAVAGES OF HISTORY ARE RARE AND

PRECIOUS. NOW THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL, THE BOOK OF KELLS, HAS BEEN REPRODUCED.

GEORGE HILL AND COLIN BRENNAN DESCRIBE THE

ORIGINAL LABOUR OF LOVE — AND THE WORK ON ITS MODERN EQUIVALENT

won over to sanction the project. "It is probably the best protected manuscript I have ever come across," he says. "You can imagine the excitement and emotion I felt when, after years of negotiations, I was allowed to see the whole manuscript page by page."

Even being allowed to look through the book was an unusual privilege. "The safety of the manuscript was to us of overriding importance, and we thought long and hard before agreeing even to begin discussions," says Peter Fox, librarian of Trinity College. The college insisted that the book

would have to remain in the library at all times, under controlled conditions of light, temperature and humidity. Only the library staff would be allowed to handle it during the long task of photographing each page.

For a time, it seemed that the whole project might founder over the problem of photography. The common method of taking the manuscript apart to hold the pages flat for the camera, and then rebinding it afterwards, was out of the question. The brittle pigments of the illuminations could easily be chipped away from the ancient vellum pages, which ruled out the alternative of laying sheets of glass over the page to flatten them.

"When the book was examined under magnification, it was quite frightening how cracked the pigments had become," Fox says. After much research, Duggelin and his team devised a system which held each page open with small suction-points.

Nearly 500 buyers have already ordered copies of the facsimile. A third are libraries, universities and similar institutions. A similar number are previous customers of the publishers, mostly from German-speaking areas, where facsimile collecting is more widespread than it is here. The other orders have come from private collectors, investors and specialists. In Ireland, no fewer than 50 private buyers have ordered copies, despite the price.

In Dublin the manuscripts of the four Gospels are now bound separately, and two are kept on display at any one time, with the other two in the strongroom. The pages are turned about once a month. Even the library's staff in charge of ancient manuscripts normally avoid handling the book more than they can help, so as not to subject it to undue wear.

The book has always been a secret treasure. It was never designed to be pored over, even by dedicated scholars. In fact, the experience of browsing through it in reproduction is a strange and almost hypnotic one. The fantastic intricacy of the illuminations is obnoxious. Influences from Coptic scribes in the Egyptian desert and the icon-painters of Byzantium, transmitted along mysterious lines of contact to the edge of the civilized world, are challenged and almost overwhelmed by an ancient Celtic passion for mazes and abstractions.

Figures of saints and angels are frozen in hieratic poses which seem designed to separate them as fully as possible from the everyday world. Men and animals are pull-

ed wildly out of shape and knitted together like macramé work, as if to deny the sordid limitations of flesh and blood. Tiny acrobats bend into mad contortions to form capital letters. A candy-striped cat bounds across the sacred pages in pursuit of a mouse straight out of *Tom and Jerry*, which has apparently run off with

a Communion wafer. The snakes that Saint Patrick banished from Ireland seem to have wriggled into the margins to hide from him.

Like *Tom and Jerry*, these miniatures strenuously avoid being naturalistic. Many of them probably had symbolic meanings now forgotten (the snake, for instance, often symbolized resur-

rection, because of the way it sheds its old skin to put on a new one). In other medieval books, scribes often took advantage of these double meanings to smuggle into their manuscripts wonderfully close observation of nature and of everyday life. The Kells scribes preferred to work a sort of Disney-Continued overleaf

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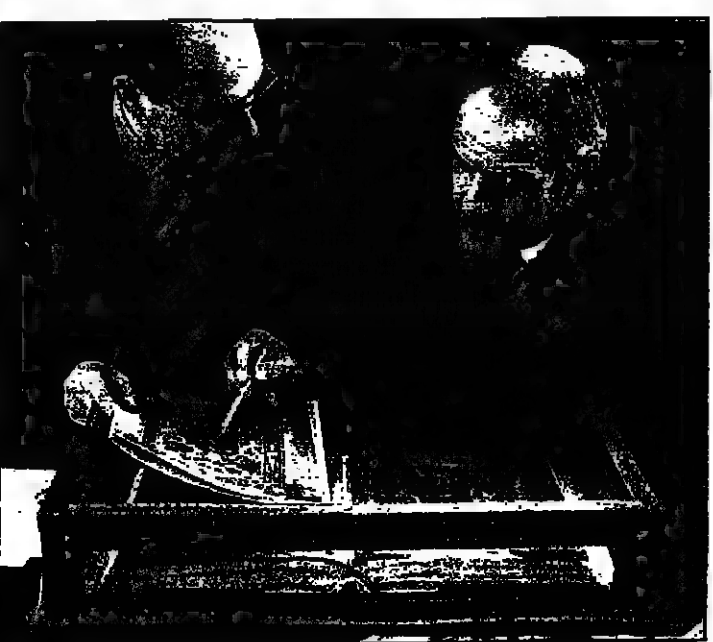
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Passed for press: Librarian Peter Fox (left) and publisher Urs Duggelin closely check the final test print for radiance of colour reproduction

THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



Pig's ear of a breakfast

You leave the Pennsylvania Station/ At a quarter past 10/ You read a magazine/ And you're in Trenton again.

And from Trenton, New Jersey, I went to Bucks County, Pa.

After spending 13 happy hours in Qantas comfort crossing the Pacific, I passed the next three standing behind 2,000 Japanese in the immigration queue at LA airport. On American Airlines my seat for the ensuing five hours was next to Ben (11 months), who does not like to fly and does not hesitate to let you know.

By the time I got to New York I felt I deserved a rest, and there is no more tranquil spot than Holicong Road, Lahaska, where two of my longest standing friends in America, Bob Russell and Bill Mandel, have a 17th-century farmhouse. Building began soon after 1673, when the Quaker William Penn was given his royal grant to Pennsylvania. In the grounds are a vast barn, now converted into an artist's studio, a milkhouse to which a greenhouse has been added for cultivating orchids and a corn crib redesigned as guest quarters. It is my habit when people are kind enough to let me stay with them to present them with a brass plaque for the guest-room, saying Grace Poole Suite, or in this case Annexe, after the lady in the west wing who gave Mr Rochester such a hard time in *Jane Eyre*. I occupied the Grace Poole Annexe for the weekend, nipping through the scattering of snow to the main house for meals. It owes the air of peace to its owners' shrewd move in buying up the 50 acres of farmland which surround it.

Holicong is American Indian for an underground stream which surfaces down from the house in two small lakes. Outside the dining-room window are bird tables. We shared meals with a colourful parade of chickadees, bluebirds and bright red cardinals. Any crumbs they knocked overboard were grabbed by a family of grey squirrels who gambolled about the branches of the trees in quaint Disney fashion.

A Pennsylvania delicacy is "scrapple", a savoury breakfast



mince made of little bits of otherwise inedible pig, like ears. It is extremely cheap and my hosts' predecessor in Holicong Road was once shocked when a rich Miss Biddle of Philadelphia served him scrapple for luncheon. There used to be a radio jingle which went: "Listen all you friends of mine/ Philadelphia scrapple's fine/ And it only costs a dime." We ate it with a mushroom omelette. For those of you who continue to be curious about what we drank, we had a St Emilion, Canon La Gaffelière '78 with the lamb on Saturday and a St Julien, Château Talbot '78 with the veal on Sunday.

There is also a ghost. I didn't see him myself but Bill Mandel and George, his Boston terrier, have seen him often. He is a vague, benign presence — they think a Lenape Indian whose territory this was.

Wickedly my hosts had told Gerda, who cleans for them, that

their weekend visitor was an after dinner speaker from England who charges £5,000 per address. (This is not quite true.) Gerda thought about it long and hard and said: "Surely he's not going to charge you £5,000 if he's staying in the house."

IT IS nearly two years since I visited New York, and much has changed. There is a new public holiday, Martin Luther King Day. Bloomington has gone bankrupt, but is still open. Keith McNally, the British boy wonder caterer, has opened yet another ragnally fashionable restaurant, Lucky Strike. For gangs of kids, "wilding", or bag-snatching, is in — my guest for the theatre, Marti Stevens, just escaped the other night. She now carries a paper bag with the minimum inside. You can no longer buy *The Times* at the Algonquin but on 57th Street the Parker Meridien strives to remind its clientele that it

is part of a French chain. The other day a bellboy wished a departing guest, "Have a nice jour!"

Most incredible there is the activity on Broadway. Rex Harrison, Stewart Granger and Glynnis Johns are playing in *The Circle*, and across town in the satirical revue *Forbidden Broadway* Rex and Glynnis are sent up in a parody of that song from *Gigi*. Rex: We met at nine. Glynnis: We met at eight. Rex: I was on time. Glynnis: No, you were late. Both: Ah yes, we remember our lines.

Jerome Robbins' Broadway is an inspiring anthology of all his best bits of staging. The suite of dances from *West Side Story* is as fresh as the recent revivals of the whole work have been stale. The entire cast should come to London as soon as possible in exchange for one of our classical troupes only leaving

behind the narrator and the clumsy script he has been given. If narrated it must be, Derek Griffiths would be the perfect choice. Tommy Tune's direction of *Grand Hotel* is as artful as was his work for *Nine*, but now it emphasizes the frailties of the show rather than concealing them. There is no interval. Escape was impossible.

Larry Gelbart's book for *City of Angels* is the funniest and most classically inventive since *Forum*, which he wrote with Burt Shevelove. The play is a hit but it's sad that English soft rock-inspired musicals have so lulled American audiences that they are reluctant to lean forward and listen to 359 beautifully crafted laughs. The evocative pastiche jazz score, an interesting idea, does not quite play theatrically; but Florence Klotz's witty clothes, Robin Wagner's seedy Hollywood sets and Michael Blakemore's confident direction certainly do. *Annie Two*, *Miss Hanigan's Revenge* has bitten the dust in Washington; but my host, Glen Raven (proprietor of the New York Grace Poole Suite) is worshipping his musical examination of the emotional pulse of America, and *Heart's Desire*. It is daring, tuneful and adult; but his director did not feel that the cast was ready for a jaundiced foreign eye, so I shall have to come back later. Raven is a wit, a gossip and a diminutive eccentric. He has a kittle which is purple with a yellow lid, a green handle and a red whistle. When it boils it plays "a screaming third between C and E and makes me think the Nazis are coming down Broadway to get me".

Arthur Laurents is working on a musical of *The Thin Man*. Hal Prince is directing a new *Kander and Ebb "Tuner"*, as *Variety* would say, based on *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and Stephen Sondheim has two shows on the go. The only better news would be that he was preparing three.

SOME THINGS don't change — like Polish jokes. A Pole in a bar is watching television. He bets the bartender \$50 the man on the ledge on the eight o'clock news will not jump to his death. The bartender takes the bet and the man jumps. The bartender is ashamed to grab the Pole's money. "I saw him jump already on the six o'clock news," he confesses. "So did I," says the Pole. "I didn't think he'd do it again."

A New York friend, Tony Geis, had a wry reflection on the Berlin situation. What do you say first if you are East German — "I was never a Nazi" or "I was never a Communist"?

PS. Q: How many feminists does it take to change a light bulb. A: That's not funny!

FRANCES EDMONDS

If I were...

If I were Shirley Porter, Tesco heiress and controversial Tory leader of Westminster City Council, I would still be recovering from the humiliation of my televised apology this week. All right, I would belatedly concede, so the sale of three cemeteries in 1987 was hardly one of my more felicitous moves. But today, I would suggest, let us bury the past, perhaps in some privately-owned resting place recently purchased for 15p and now worth £5-million. Instead, I would exhort, let us "crack on" with the Herculean task of cleaning up the nation's capital.

Immediately I would contact Judge James Pickles in his holiday hideaway and suggest he take early retirement from the pressures of the judiciary. Such talents as his, I would argue, are ill-appreciated by the wishy-washy bleeding hearts who create public opinion nowadays. Next I would persuade the good judge to accept the new position of Westminster's Chief Law Administrator. Together we would then start fixing more appropriate penalties for the anti-social behaviour of some of our fellow city dwellers.

First of all, throughout the entire borough of Westminster, we would make the possession of a dog a



... Lady Porter

punishable offence. Tired of the mess and health hazards created by ubiquitous doggy droppings and outraged by the expense of relentless "pooper-scooping", we would hand out six-month custodial sentences to all those sufficiently mad to keep a dog in a town. Obviously, any female dog-owner of child-bearing age would have this sentence doubled. This would help underline the essential criminality of being a potentially pregnant woman.

Next we would turn our attention to folk who dump their refuse anywhere, anytime, without a care for the environment. Persistent offenders would be tied to Central Electricity Generating Board ships, dragged out into the North Sea, and forced to witness the Government's own genuine litter louts at work.

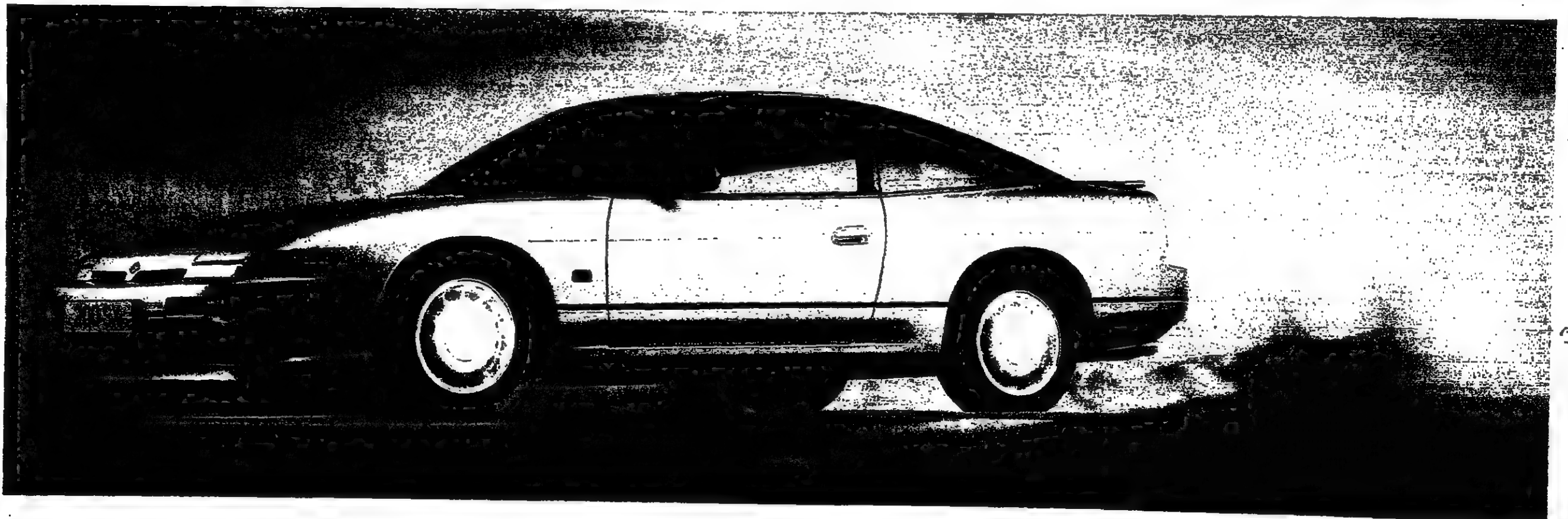
Grazers, those dreadful people who wander the streets of London, drinking from cans and eating from cartons, would be force-fed "100 per cent pure English beef" hamburgers until they keeled over from bovine spongiform encephalopathy. And, as soon as possible, we would implement a shoot-to-kill policy to deal with the city's mindlessly destructive graffiti daubers.

After a fact-finding mission to WI, I would insist that major routes out of town are no longer used as trainee hole-digging courses. I would order gas, water, electricity, sewerage and telephone companies to co-ordinate their excavations in order to ensure minimum aggravation and upheaval. And I would contemplate the eternal mystery of London road repair: why, if it takes one man four days to dig a hole, does it always take 40 men one year to fill it in again?

Driving home along the Embankment, I would stare across the Thames to Lambeth, eyeing that mausoleum which once housed the now defunct Greater London Council. "If only that were in my patch," I would muse, my celebrated business sense rekindled. "I'm sure I could flog it off for anything up to 50p."

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A CHILDHOOD: ANDREA NEWMAN

'I haven't written much about childhood. It was a time when I felt helpless from being bullied'



Andrea Newman and, left, as a child: "All teenagers want to leave home, but in those days it wasn't done unless you were getting married. You couldn't just go and live with someone"

By the time Andrea Newman was 17 she had written six unpublished novels. For as long as she could remember she had wanted to write, and the discovery at the age of nine that she was distantly related to Elizabeth Barrett Browning had only fuelled an already formidable ambition.

"I was amazed and delighted and couldn't understand why I hadn't been told sooner. Nobody at school seemed very impressed, though. It felt a bit flat when I told them."

As a child, while other little girls played at keeping house with their dolls, Newman turned her into a Hollywood film star, who got married and just as frequently divorced, and for whom she would make up gossip stories and film scripts.

She was, one is not surprised to discover, a very unchildlike only child; she was probably a bit precious, a teacher's pet, bullied at three schools in succession and very anxious to grow up.

Being a child was not much fun for her and she found other children tiresome. She has had no children of her own.

Today she is a popular novelist in the sense that when her latest book, *A Sense of Guilt*, began its seven-part serialization on television this week, it was generally assumed that the BBC was about to garner some hefty and regular viewing figures.

The name Andrea Newman on the front of a book jacket or a television serial automatically suggests interlocking triangular sexual and emotional relationships, involving those for whom such relationships are socially taboo.

In the Sixties there was *Three Into Two Won't Go*, which became a film with Claire Bloom and Rod Taylor, and a screenplay written by Edna O'Brien; in the Seventies came the then notorious *A Boy Called West*, which was developed into an extremely successful television series.

Now we have *A Sense of Guilt*, while in March an anthology of short stories will be published, to be called, appropriately enough, *Triangles*.

Who is loving (or sometimes hating) whom, and how, and in what way, and why, are the stuff of her books.

It is little wonder that one of her favourite novels of all time is Nabokov's , or that, as a schoolgirl, she sent a letter of sympathy to Princess Margaret when the princess decided she must give up Group Captain Peter Townsend.

"My heart aches for you," she wrote. The reply was polite and came from a lady-in-waiting.

Andrea Newman is 51 and was born in Dover, Kent, just before the last war.

It has occurred to her recently that the coming and going on leave of her father, who was serving in the RAF, might indirectly have influenced her later relationships with men: in that she now realizes men were perceived by her to be somewhat unreliable, perhaps almost mysterious, romantic figures — although, in her father's case, this was through no fault of his own.

"Of course, a child doesn't know that. All the child knows is that the man comes and goes, and I think perhaps there may have been a tension in the atmosphere: what if he didn't come back, or we lose the war, or he is killed. It was a risky feeling."

"If you are born into a war, or

just before, then it's a bit Orwellian in that it seems there's always been a war."

"I can remember being surprised when I finished and surprised that we won because my team never won at school — I suppose because I was on it and was hopeless and was always the last to be chosen."

Her parents were of that inter-war generation who wanted (and were able to achieve) much more for their daughter than they had for themselves.

Her mother had been born in Jamaica, her father in India. He had then become a reporter with the *Kent Messenger* before the war, spent much of his wartime RAF career involved in aerial photography and eventually went to work for ICI in the photography department.

Her mother worked only in the war. It was not expected in those days that a wife would work, although both parents always expected their daughter to have a career. They saw the changes coming, prepared for them and welcomed them for her, but did not change themselves.

In 1940, when it became particularly noisy in Dover, the family moved to Shropshire and later to Cheshire.

Somehow, there she felt there were no roots, got an inferiority complex (jokingly referred to in the family as "Andrea's IC") and, early on, had no friends and received much bullying.

"I never told my parents, but

than most, it has also recently occurred to her that the anger and de-raiding of relationships to be found within the families of her novels might just possibly have its genesis in her grandmother's memories of Jamaica; along with a little help from Greek mythology and the operas of Verdi, Puccini and Wagner.

It was, she says, a musical house rather than a bookish one.

When she was 11, her grandmother died. "For some reason," says Newman, "my parents didn't let me go to the funeral, although she had died at home and we had said prayers around the bed and I had seen the dead body and kissed it goodnight."

"I think to have seen a peaceful death at a young age and to have been unafraid of the dead person was a very valuable experience."

Throughout these years she read endlessly, at one point writing to Daphne du Maurier to say how much she had enjoyed her novel *The Parasites*.

"She replied with a lovely typewritten letter with spelling mistakes that I have to this day. Later I foolishly sent her a poem I'd

written, which wasn't very good, and she wrote back again tactfully telling me how I could improve it."

When the first Andrea Newman novel was published, Daphne du Maurier got an early copy — evidence that this young fan had finally done what she had set out to do.

The apprenticeship period had begun with a novel at the age of nine. "It was called *Dark Alley* and was about the slums of London — which I had never seen."

This was followed by a rip-off of *Rebecca* and then, at 11, a 78,000-word saga called *Four Lives*. This was the story of four girls in Russia, one of whom wanted to become an actress, another a writer, a third a concert pianist and the fourth a ballerina.

"I remember in the war I had collected £5 in a tin for the Red Army. I thought the Russian names were very glamorous."

"The writing was good practice. You can make a lot of mistakes in private that way. Because I was busy studying for examinations, I couldn't write regularly and would either get bored or outgrow the book before I had finished it."

From 17 to 24, there were no

books. Instead, A levels (she was top-sided clever, good at arts and languages, hopeless at maths and science), a degree at the University of London and the attentions of a boyfriend/husband were all-consuming.

The boy she married, and of whom she speaks sparingly and cautiously, was from the same neighbourhood in Cheshire. They met when she was 16. He was 19 and in retailing.

They had a happy five-year courtship and, while she was still at the all-girls' Westfield College in London, they married. She was 21 and her parents wanted them to wait.

That was about the most rebellious thing she ever did. The early Sixties were not a rebellious time to be growing up.

"What an easy time our parents had," she says. "My idea of a wild time was going up Kilburn High Road and spending 49s 11d on a pair of shoes. There were no drugs, hardly any alcohol, cigarettes were tolerated and that was it."

There was sex. "Oh yes, that was wonderful, a source of anxiety but tremendously wonderful."

Her years of courtship and marriage seem now, she says, to belong to another life. "All teenage children want to leave home, but in those days it wasn't done unless you were getting married. You couldn't just go off and live with someone."

"So your partner became your escape route from your parents. We had a very happy first five years. After university I spent 18 months in the Civil Service coding questionnaires for £8 a week."

"Then I went into teaching for two and a half years in a north London grammar school. But at 24 I made up my mind that I was going to write 2,000 words a day until I had written a book."

"It took me eight weeks during a school summer holiday."

At first her husband was very supportive. But the relationship became strained with success. The sudden lump-sums of money which authors receive from time to time upset the balance of their lives. In effect, they grew apart.

"We probably married too young. When we finally separated for good, when I was 30, I had been involved with him since I was 16. That was nearly half my life."

They did not stay friends. Her former husband is now dead and, although she alludes freely to other relationships, she has never remarried.

When asked to name the moment at which childhood finally ended, most people interviewed for this page mention the ending of university, leaving home, or getting a job. In other words, finding out what road in life to follow.

But Andrea Newman thinks her childhood ended much earlier. She was no longer a child at 16, she says. But then she always knew exactly what road her life was to follow.

Photograph by Graham Wood

In the beginning

Continued from page 31

came transfiguration on the natural world. They would rather draw a lion than a bull, because they had never seen a lion, but if they did draw a bull, they preferred to colour it green and speckle it with purple shamrocks.

It is more like jewellery than manuscript. Indeed, its makers probably thought of it as a kind of jewel, for use in church liturgy. It was a means for them to contribute their utmost effort and devotion to the glory of God. Its size and the gigantic labour and expense of its creation mark it out as an altar book, for reading aloud on occasions of special pomp. The other furnishings of the ceremony — vestments, crosses and chalices — probably showed comparable craftsmanship, to judge from the few surviving examples, like the Armagh chalice and the Tara brooch. These sumptuous rituals were carried on almost in secrecy in the tiny, dark churches of the period.

Its materials were almost as precious as jewels. Instead of paper, the pages were made from vellum, the thin white leather which can be prepared only from the skins of embryo or newborn calves. Research done in connection with the facsimile edition shows that the complete book must have required the skins of about 185 calves. In early Irish times, a herd of at least 1,200 cattle would have been needed to provide so many skins. In a society where cattle were the main form of wealth, a monastery rich enough to own or buy so many skins must have been rich indeed.

The pigments used were equally precious. The red dye, kermes, comes from a Mediterranean insect. Foliolium, a purple vegetable dye, also had to be imported. The wood the dyes used to wear supplied a blue dye, but the richer ultramarine blue was made from powdered lapis. This was as

costly at that time as gold, for the only known source was in Afghanistan.

Puzzling, gold itself is not used, though it must have been available. Instead, the scribes achieved an effect almost as intense as gold leaf with a yellow compound of arsenic called orpiment.

But the scarce resource that was expended most lavishly in the production of the book was skilled manpower. The Irish Church at that time was a missionary church. Bibles, which could be written only by hand, must have been urgently in demand for the missions which it was sending out, to venture far and wide into a Europe which had largely sunk back into paganism. In the centuries while the Roman Empire was disintegrating, and Ireland had been almost the only peaceful spot on earth.

Yet Franciscan Henry, one of the foremost scholars in the field, has estimated that this one book must have "absorbed the activities of perhaps a dozen elaborately-trained scribes and illuminators for several decades".

The period of peace was already coming to an end while the book was being written. The work may have been done in the Irish missionary foundation at Iona, off the west coast of Scotland — one of the few monasteries with the resources to attempt such a task. Marauding Vikings began to attack the British Isles about the same time. Iona soon came under threat, and the book may have been sent to Kells in Ireland, a relative backwater, for safe keeping.

Eventually the Vikings reached Ireland too, and gradually undermined its peace. The first known reference to the existence of the book is a record of its theft. In the year 1006 an unknown thief snatched it from the care of the monks, for the sake of the gold shrine it was stored in, and its jewelled cover. The book, "the chief relic of the

Western World", was found "buried under a sod" a month later, with its cover wrenched off.

For another 650 years the book remained in Kells, while the church gradually crumbled to ruin around it. When Oliver Cromwell invaded Ireland in 1654, he quartered his cavalry in the church. To protect it from the puritan iconoclasts, the governor of the town sent it to Dublin for safety, and it soon found its way to Trinity College. The college did not always value it as highly as it does today, and the book shed several pages there over the centuries. It was rebound 200 years ago, so clumsily that some of the designs were trimmed off at the edge. In 1814 the whole book disappeared for a time, though eventually it turned up again. Nowadays, they take better care of it.

W. B. Yeats, in one of his finest poems, announced as he was feeling age creeping up on him that Ireland was "no country for old men". It was too full of life — birds, fish and lovers, "those dying generations" all preoccupied with birth, death and begetting, and all far too distracting. He threatened to take himself off to Byzantium, to contemplate its timeless hieratic mosaics and its "monuments of unageing intellect".

He could have found the example he was looking for much closer at hand, just off College Green. With a concentration as rigorous as that of any sage of Byzantium, and also intensely Irish, the scribes of the Book of Kells had succeeded long before in sinking their minds into "the artifice of eternity", despite the birds, fish and lovers teeming all around them — not to mention the cats, the newborn calves, and the Vikings beating at the door.

• The Book of Kells limited facsimile edition is published by Fine Art Facsimile Publishers of Switzerland, Malihofstrasse 25, Lucerne 6, Switzerland. The current price is \$14,800 (£8,900).

Polo-neck or nothing

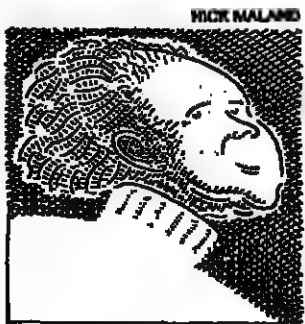
Fashion editors have a tendency to advise that one article of clothing or another is "making a comeback". They don't do this often — once or twice a week at most — but a month's worth of predictions covers most items. Since mid-December, I seem to have read about the comeback of the mini, the maxi and the midi, of platform shoes and winklepickers, of hotpants, bikinis, bowler hats and even flares.

Oddly enough, the item of clothing which really does seem to be making a comeback has not yet been granted a mention. After some time away from London, I have noticed the polo-neck on every corner. In any gathering of 10 people, at least three will be wearing polo-necks. Of course, around the beginning of the Sixties, the polo-neck was as fashionable as can be. The cast of *Beyond the Fringe* wore black polo-necks, and so too did the Beatles on the cover of their LP *With the Beatles*. Steve McQueen wore polo-necks, and so did Emma Peel. Illya Kuryakin on *The Man from Uncle* wore one, and his sidekick might just as well have been called Napoleon Polo. Simon Dee himself wore polo-necks, and he preferred to interview other polo-necked stars such as Roger Moore and Terence Stamp. Up-and-coming conductors — von Karajan, Previn, Bernstein — proudly wore their polo-necks in their leisure time to show that they weren't stuffy.

They were worn as alibis by members of the first tie-less generation, though sometimes those alibis were not accepted. The painter Rory McEwan was escorted to the door of White's wearing a polo-neck. I myself, on a more modest level, found my position in the school debating team in jeopardy when I turned up for a debate against a local girl's school wearing a polo-neck. After furious discussion, it was de-

cided that I could take to the podium only if I wore a tie over my polo-neck. Alas, this proved too much for the audience, and my sturdy and at times moving opposition to fox-hunting was constantly interrupted by giggles from all sides.

It was inevitable that corruptions would creep in before long. The original black polo-neck was discarded for the white, drip-dry polo-neck, and then the white, drip-dry polo-neck was given a gold medal. By the early 1970s, all-



CRAIG BROWN

round family entertainers such as Val Doonican were wearing polo-necks, but now with V-neck jerseys pulled over them. The end came with two final blows: the all-in-one *troupe l'oeil* polo-with-V-neck, and then the bogus polo — a circle of material containing only the neck and surrounding inches of a polo-neck.

The polo-neck took early retirement, and was not seen again in this country for 15 years. Those who remained loyal to the polo-neck during those dark years may be counted on the fingers of one hand, and, interestingly, a good half of them were called Des. The Earl of Cawdor, Des O'Connor, Harold Pinter and Des Wilson. I rather think that Cap'n Birdseye, too, kept the faith, but the chunky, a-

there polo-neck has always been a very different kettle of fish.

During the polo-neckless years, one would see the polo-neck on television from time to time. A British movie filmed at some time between the mid-Sixties and the mid-Seventies can be identified within seconds, simply because everyone is wearing a polo-neck; the policeman is wearing a polo-neck, the villain is wearing a polo-neck, even the news-vendor ("Read All About It! Polo-Necked Killer Strikes Again! Read All About It!") is wearing a polo-neck. But if ever a contemporary actor is seen wearing a polo-neck, you can always be sure that he has something to hide, more often than not, in the final reel his polo-neck will be tugged off by the hero, revealing the tail-tale screws and springs of a one-hundred-per-cent robot.

The evolution of any fashion revival works in reverse, taking up where the old fashion left off and then working back to its original source. The polo-necks I am now spotting on the streets of London might have been worn by John Craven or John Craven's *Newsround* circa 1974: all-in-one *troupe l'oeil* polo-with-V-necks in reds, mauves and oranges, often with stripes of a different hue to accentuate the "V" and further stripes encircling the waistline, some with sporting or trade motifs emblazoned upon the left breast. But I predict that, in a few months' time, the pure white polo-neck will be seen on the streets again, worn by the trendier ends of the stockier professions. Then, shortly before next Christmas, the original black polo-neck will make its comeback, to be worn by gullen youths, free-form jazz musicians, temperamental mime artists and Mr Jonathan Miller. When none of this comes to pass, remember one thing: you read it here first.

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Land of the culture crisis



The man in the Crocodile Dundee hat winced at the sun as he glanced up to greet a stranger jogging past his lawn in the suburban Adelaide foothills. "Good on yer, mate," he offered with a grin, before returning to his mower. In most places these days you are lucky to get a nod or a grunt of recognition.

The friendly Aussie may be a stereotype reinforced of late by Paul Hogan, but the mower's reaction was a reminder that it is not just the wildlife that makes Australia different. Life in cities like Adelaide, and even in big bad Sydney, is still gentler and simpler. But it can be a tough job convincing the locals. "Don't you think we're becoming terribly Americanized?" is a refrain directed at a former South Australian on his first trip back since leaving school here 20 years ago. Assuming they mean the hectic commercialism of the worst side of America, the answer is no.

A sombre mood seems to be afflicting many Australians after a troubled decade in which the "lucky country" took something of an economic thrashing and ended with the downfall of one of its biggest business buccanniers — Alan Bond. Gambling and sometimes losing big has always been an Australian sport, but Bond's spectacular fall, rendered more savoury by his simultaneous triumph in the Sydney-Hobart yacht race, added to the general anxiety.

As Australians rang in the Nineties around their swimming pools and barbecues, the talk was all about the new realism, the notion that the old happy-go-lucky Oz will stand or fall as an Asian trading nation and can no longer bank on its old status as favoured child of America or Europe.

Asia, as they say, is no longer the bit you fly over on the way to Earls Court. If Australia cannot compete with its prosperous neighbours, it risks turning into a banana republic, in the words of Paul Keating, the Treasurer. The new anxiety came through in polls run by newspapers during the New

Charles Bremner revisits Australia and wonders why it should be so on the defensive about its past, present and future

Year period. These found that more than 50 per cent of Australians thought life would become harder in the next decade, an extraordinary figure given the optimism that has reigned so long here.



The country spends an inordinate amount of time scrutinizing its identity, swinging from pride in its sardonic optimism to self-conscious brooding about whether the place really matches up to the rest of the world. To judge by the reaction to Bond's long-awaited downfall, for example, you would think his worst sin was to have tarnished the image of the Australian entrepreneur abroad. That could explain why some commentators have resorted to emphasizing Bond's origins as a Pommie immigrant.

The other image — the bronzed, feisty, "no worries, mate" Aussie — has of course enjoyed spectacular promotion over the past few years thanks to Paul Hogan.

Single-handedly, "Mick" Dundee has acquainted nearly every American man, woman and child with the myth of the Australian male, the self-mocking and rather gentle macho who has no real equivalent in American folklore. His arrival gave the Americans their first intimation that Australia was not just a Wild West with kangaroos. However, it is not until they arrive as tourists that the Americans are exposed to the

other side of the coin, the suburban pretensions celebrated by Dame Edna Everage and the joyous philistinism of Barry Humphries's other persona, Sir Les Patterson, Cultural Attaché.

For all the natives' talk of a new cosmopolitan culture, the country still retains much of the old-fashioned charm of Anglo-Australia, a nation hammered together from a handful of colonies only 89 years ago this month.

Coming back after 20 years away from the land where I spent my teenage years, the predominant impression is the gentle, old-world flavour. In comparison with the brash new south of England or the jam-packed littorals of America, the pace is slow and gentle. People greet strangers with a "How're you going?". Even the police conducting the random breath tests employ a cheery chattiness with their victims.

In Sydney, the country's most international city, a police inspector makes the front page with a lament about the number of pedestrians who defy the lights and jay-walk. "I'm appalled at the nerve of people who just ignore the law," Chief Inspector McDonald complained to *The Sydney Morning Herald*. It is all very reassuring when you arrive from a city where the police are reluctant to investigate a burglary unless someone has been shot or beaten.

In Adelaide, a city still loaded with Victorian colonial charm, they bowl on impeccable lawns in their whites and little boys sit in doorways breaking in cricket bats. There have been changes in 20 years. Several American-style high rises blot the town centre and the sprawl of little bungalows has stretched out into the dry Mount Lofty hills and down the coast. With the "White Australia" policy a distant memory, you see Indian and Asian faces in the European crowd and you can find a brightly painted Vietnamese community centre nestling next to a pub. And there is the fast-growing wine industry that means you will hear taxi drivers and gardeners discussing a Chardonnay or a Cabernet Sauvignon rather than they do in California.



Many old conventions survive in Adelaide as if in a time warp, sometimes rubbing shoulders with the new. There are the old-style uniforms of the private school pupils, which mean you see sixth-form boys strolling around in neat little caps and the girls in old-fashioned tunics. And there are the rather stuffy old clubs. In the dining room at the Royal Adelaide Yacht Squadron, the members are reminded to wear long trousers and ties, even though they may have just come off one of the boats moored in the heat and dazzling sunshine a few yards away.

Yet it has members like Brian Davidge, an extrovert manager of the Jam Factory, a handicrafts centre. It is hard to imagine what the elders of the Yacht Squadron make of the ring in Davidge's left ear. He says they did convey to him their anxiety over the name he gave to his boat — "Bloody Mary" — in honour of his ex-wife. She was not amused, he recalls, when the committee barred her from the room when it interviewed him. For all the new cappuccino and croissant culture and the efforts of Germaine Greer, Australia remains pretty much a

man's country. At the Melbourne Cup, for example, women are still forbidden to cross a white line laid down on the ground in the members' enclosure.

The sense of other-worldliness is one of the most striking aspects of life Down Under. It is all the more remarkable given the way that satellites and computer links now bring in the days' news from the northern hemisphere and cut the old time lag that used to delay fashions and other trends.



Australia is going to bed before America and Europe is starting the day. Things just seem farther away.

That could explain why the local television chose to inform viewers that two local aquarium dolphins had "met their destiny" at the hands of the vet — been put down as suspected TB carriers — before getting on to the war in Romania or the flight of General Noriega.

The sheer emptiness of the land and its remoteness from the news-producing northern world preserves the Australian mystique,

the flavour that entices outsiders. But it also helps to maintain what Australians have taken to calling the "cultural cringe". This is the reflex sense of inferiority that drives them to measure themselves constantly against the outside world, that supposedly great source of taste, trends, culture and knowledge, known collectively as "overseas".

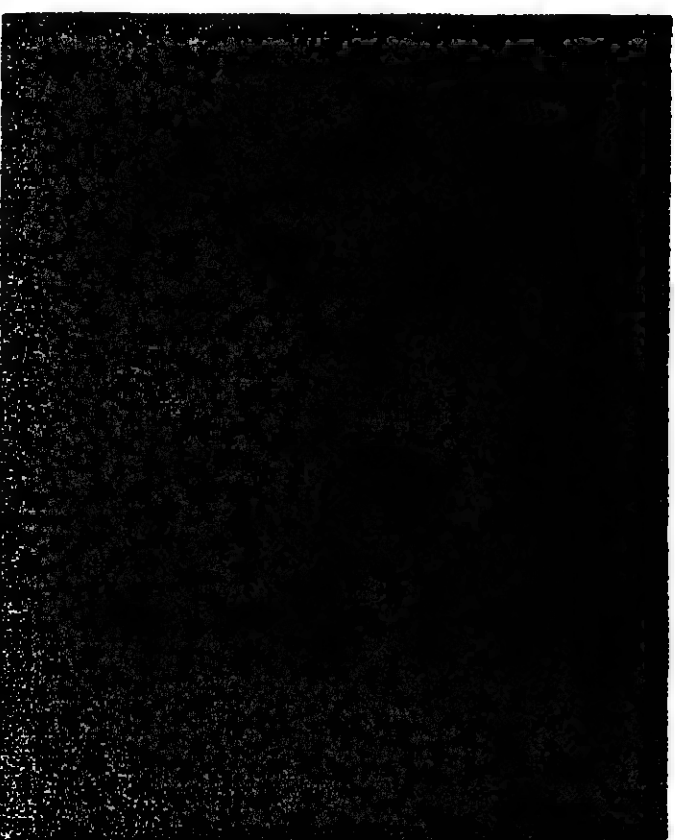
You hear it everywhere: "Have a chocolate biscuit, they're all from overseas," the old family friend says. "Jim's done really well and bought a manor house overseas," an admiring relative notes. The antidote to the cringe is a self-conscious affection for Culture, as witnessed particularly in Adelaide, a city which features a biennial festival and calls itself the "Athens of the South". Where else would they announce on the main television news that Luciano Pavarotti has consented to sing in 1991 in an event known as "Opera in the Outback"?

The defensiveness over culture — quite unnecessary given the world reputation of the local film industry, painters and writers — extends often to some hefty gov-

ernment interference. The conservative Liberal coalition vowed just before Christmas that it would knock the soap operas off the state television service once it got back in office. The much-ridiculed but hugely successful *Neighbours*, fans will be interested to know, will be spared the fate since it is produced by a commercial station. Occasionally, however, the high cultural profile comes a cropper. In late December, in an episode worthy of Les Patterson, a Sydney ballet company launched a new publicity slogan that reached a little too far in trying for a balletic pun in French. "Pas d'Excellence", the slogan proclaimed until the French embassy gently pointed out the unintended negative.

Anyway, one wonders: who needs all that respect for European culture? In a world that is contracting by the day, where global anxieties are supplanting political ones, Australia offers scarce commodities — distance, natural resources and, above all, space. That is why the less anxious of the local worrying classes recognize that Australia's century probably has not even begun yet.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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TOMORROW.

OUT & ABOUT

Nigel Andrew continues his tour of Britain's top tourist attractions with a visit to the vividly theatrical Tower of London

Blood and showmanship

A visit to the Tower of London is an essential initiation rite for native and foreigner alike. The buildings are an extraordinary survival in the heart of a ravaged city like London — a grand, largely intact early medieval castle. But the buildings are not the point: the Tower is pure theatre, even pantomime. It presents, packaged and concentrated, a vivid, highly stylized version of English history — an English history to engage the emotions and stir the blood. At the Tower they have been doing it for centuries, and they do it with panache.

First they give you history to make your flesh creep — the grisly catalogue of torture, execution and murder, from the Princes in the Tower to Henry VI, Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, the Earl of Essex, Guy Fawkes, Lord Lovat, and hundreds and thousands of others done to death here or on Tower Hill nearby. But then they give you history as one long, colourful pageant, continuous and comforting, expressed in the pomp of state and in curious, time-honoured ceremonial. The latter defuses and safely distances the former, and both relegate history to the role of public entertainment.

They will tell you about Rudolph Hess's brief imprisonment in the Tower, but they won't mention the spies who were shot by firing squads here in both World Wars.

History as quaint continuity is embodied in the persons of the Yeoman Warders (or Beefeaters) who calve the Tower precincts with their undressed uniform, some of them incongruously clutching walkie-talkies. Their blue and scarlet livery, like the splendid red and gold full-dress version, looks Tudor at the latest, but in fact, like so much of "olde England" it was a Victorian creation.

The Yeoman Warders, for all their ceremonial function, are there for two routine purposes: to pose for photographs with members of the vast tourist army which daily invades the Tower (there is really no quiet season here) and to act as guides. I latched on to a group led by a Yeoman Warden with a sun-drenched back, a grizzled beard and a particularly strong pair of lungs. This, I was soon to discover, was not his only distinction: the man was an artist, a stand-up patter-merchant whose act has been burnished to a rare perfection. If he hasn't got an Equity card, he should certainly get one.

As we stood by Tower Green, waiting for the stragglers to catch



Guiding light: the Yeoman Warders calve the Tower precincts with their splendid livery, but are there principally to pose for photographs and to direct the attention of the tourists

up, he passed the time of day with a lady in the front row. "Where are you from, madam?" "The antipodes!" "How does it feel to be standing the right way up?" His observations on various Australian soap operas followed. Then he directed our attention to the White Tower, the great Norman keep with its quintly capped turrets — the very image of London on a million souvenirs across the world. Having reeled off an impressively brisk string of facts, he told us that "on the top is the finest flag in the world". Sure enough, every neck craned. "What are you looking up for?" the Beefeater barked in jocular indignation. "Don't you know which is the finest flag in the world?" Apologetic laughter.

Tower Green is one of London's most surprising open spaces, more like a cathedral precinct than a castle ward, with its brick and half-timbered houses built against the massive walls. But guards wearing bearskins parade up and down, "changing" periodically with a great roaring and stamping of boots. They are there, our irrepressible guide assured us, as protection against double-glazing salesmen and Avon ladies. We gravitated to the site of the private scaffold where the better class of execution was carried out, including (in our guide's words) "Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, alias Errol Flynn".

Soon we were filing obediently into the Chapel Royal of St Peter, a plain perpendicular building with some wonderful monuments. Here our Yeoman guide, relishing a fully captive audience, really came into his own, regaling us with blood-curdling tales of how Anne Boleyn's executioner "completely severed her head from her little neck", how Margaret Pole was "literally hacked to death", how "in 1554 the blade was to bite into the slender neck of another young girl" (Lady Jane Grey). All this was leavened with humorous asides — "Phew! how does he

remember all those names?" "Sheer brilliance, madam!" — and culminated in his parting thought for the day: "A smile is a curve that makes everything straight." Putty in his hands by now, we all filed out, offering effusive thanks and handsome tips.

Our guide had warned us about pickpockets, and the message is reinforced by frequent notices. They also warn of the bleak power of the ravens, traditional guardians of the Tower. An artificially maintained population, they hop and lurch about the grounds, croaking horribly and striking up unwelcome intimacies. Other notices are discreet and just informative enough: in fact the standard of interpretation and display throughout the Tower is really very high.

What is lacking, in the midst of the tallest throats and in the presence of such exquisitely preserved, restored and manicured remains, is any immediate sense of the flesh and blood history that lived here, the human lives constrained and ended in this grim fortress. It only occasionally peeps through — in the painstaking, defiant or pathetic carvings left by prisoners on the ancient stone walls, or in the sudden awesome surprise of St John's Chapel in the White Tower, a Norman interior of radiant purity. Otherwise the Tower of London today has the inert feel of a stage set, magnificent but dead.

Leaving aside the obvious attractions — the Crown Jewels, the torture instruments, the astonishing collections in the Royal Armouries (where Henry VIII's giant codpiece still incites comment) — what remains in my mind is a fascinating little display in the bowels of the White Tower (where so many poor souls were once tortured).

This is an exhibition about the Tower's history as an exhibition. It shows the Spanish Armoury, a once popular display of weapons and fearsome torture instruments, supposedly plundered from the Armada, but which in fact weren't; a case of Victorian fakes bought and exhibited as genuine in the last century; and various wooden effigies surviving from the "Line of Kings", a life-size parade of the monarchs which was begun in the 1680s as a kind of 17th-century Madame Tussaud's.

All this is a useful reminder both that history is what we say it is, and that the Tower of London pantomime has been running for three centuries already. It will surely continue to do so for as long as English history remains such a triumphantly saleable commodity.

● The Tower of London is open during the winter from 9.30am to 4pm. Monday to Saturday. Admission £3.80, OAP £2, Child £1.50, family ticket £9. The Jewel House is closed until February 4.

MUSEUMS

But is the Tower to lose one of its top draws? Simon Tait reports

In arms against a crisis

The great debate about admission charges for the national museums and galleries brings a wry smile to the face of the Master of the Armouries, Guy Wilson.

The Armouries is the other major magnet at the Tower of London, after the Crown Jewels. But it is possible that they will have to close, and Wilson will have to use all his resources to preserve the world's best collection of ancient armour and weaponry. So bold moves, which could mean part of the Armouries will move out of London and even out of Britain, are being urgently considered.

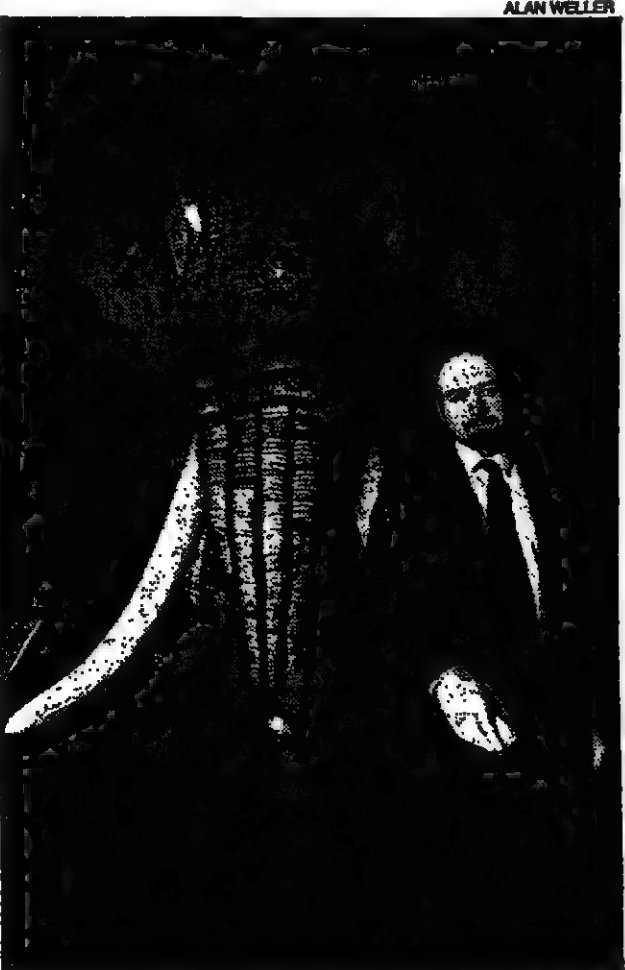
There is a charge to get into the Tower of London, but none of that money goes to the Armouries and it would be wrong, of course, to charge people again to get into another part of the complex.

The Armouries, the National Museum of Arms and Armour, has the same problems as the other national museums: small budgets and pay rises eating into what money there is.

Whether charging is the right or wrong way to raise extra funds, the chance, for Wilson and his board of trustees, would be a fine thing. All they have is the £3.4-million grant from the Department of the Environment.

And more arms and armour than they know what to do with: only 32 per cent of the collections are on show, including objects on loan elsewhere.

"There are things we must do, things we'd like to do and things we can do, and the situation now and for the past few years is that we haven't been able to do the things we must do — preserving, adding to the collections, displaying them adequately and making them available for study and research," Wilson says.



Armour fit for an elephant: Guy Wilson with a prized exhibit

jects but the expertise of preserving them — the armourers' techniques. "It's more important than opening the place to the public, and if society cannot afford to give us more money to keep the museum open then we will have to shut," Wilson has already warned employees that there may have to be staff reductions.

What is at stake is access to a collection which has been renowned since the Middle Ages. In 1489 a German gentleman, Wilwot von Schaumburg, asked to see the famous working arsenal and was given a tour, and in the 1580s the first visitors were admitted to see the historic weapons of Henry VIII.

On Charles II's restoration in 1660 the Armouries were opened to a paying public for the first time, with the main attraction being the "Line of Kings", dummies representing the "good" kings of England — William the Conqueror but not William Rufus — wearing armour and mounted on wooden horses. The Spanish Armoury, containing the weapons and instruments of torture taken from the Armada, was added a few years later.

Last year an 18th and 19th-century armoury was opened in the Tower, and Fort Nelson, a battery on the south

coast, was opened as a museum of artillery, but much bolder measures are planned to give the Armouries its much needed new lease of life.

On Thursday the trustees will decide whether or not to commission a feasibility study on shifting part of the collection to Sheffield.

The Sheffield Development Corporation (SDC) is charged with bringing urban regeneration to the city, and is doing this with a £500-million development in the Don Valley next to the M1.

It has offered £2 million to help relocate some of the collection to 50,000 sq ft in this development. If the trustees agree, there will be £10-£15 million of private money to create a purpose-built museum.

"It would be good for us for a host of reasons, and we think we would have a lot to offer," says Hugh Sykes, chairman of the SDC. "This is the centre of steel, and you couldn't think of a more appropriate city in the United Kingdom for the Armouries. There are 20 million people within a two-hour drive of the valley. Having the Armouries here would help people to take a pride in the place."

Much more controversial is the American venture. The art commission of the city of Boston, Massachusetts, has offered 30,000 sq ft of permanent exhibition space in a shopping complex, which would bring in money with an admission charge, and would advertise the Tower collections.

To make this scheme work, however, the best pieces would have to go: Henry VIII's armour, perhaps, and the elephant armour which Clive brought back from India in the 1750s. But there are four sets of Henry's armour, and the Boston exhibition would rotate.

"It's all slightly bewildering, but very exciting," Wilson says. "When the ideas came up I thought it would have to be one or the other, but why not both?"

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THE TIMES COOK

Marmalade with everything

Frances Bissell prepares to be inundated with letters as she again tackles the most controversial, bitter-sweet preserve

DANA LEADREITER



Why I am writing this is quite beyond me. Last year I swore I would never write about marmalade again in this column. The first time I wrote about it, just as the Seville oranges were coming into the shops, I was taken aback by the amount of passion in the correspondence provoked by my comments and recipes. Never mind, I thought, next year I won't get caught like this. When the following January rolled around, I gave an expert's recipe, that of Alan Davidson, the food scholar and historian currently working on the *Oxford Companion to Food*, who has been making marmalade to the satisfaction of himself and his family for more than 40 years. But still the correspondence poured in.

I am not alone in observing this phenomenon. Food writer colleagues tell me that marmalade generates more letters than any other topic. We have come to the conclusion that it is the one thing in the culinary world that the British feel passionate about. Everyone clearly feels that they have the secret for making the best marmalade. It's all in the soaking, the grating, the shredding, the skinning, the boiling, or whatever. And I am filled with admiration at the quantities you make. I won't say how many pounds, because one of you is sure to tell me that you regularly make double that amount.

The next part of this column is not for marmalade makers, but for those who have never made it and think they might like to have a go if it wasn't such a chore. It really need not be, as I discovered a few weeks ago. We do not eat much marmalade, but since there were some limes and lemons in the fruit bowl that needed to be used, I thought I would make a few jars. I liked the look of Nell Heaton's basic marmalade recipe published in 1950: "Boil whole Seville oranges for three and a half hours in plenty of water, then chop coarsely, removing pips. Add 1-1 1/2 lb sugar to each pound of fruit and half pint of water; boil briskly for half an hour, then put." She goes on to describe success with other combinations of fruit, and I decided I would work well with the limes and lemons. By accident I forgot to switch off the heat, and the fruit cooked at the lowest possible temperature for about eight hours. By then I did not feel like dealing with it and left it overnight. Next day the fruit was cold and, therefore, easy to handle. I quartered and sliced it very thinly, although I could have simply given it a quick burst in the food processor. Then it was an easy matter to squeeze out the pips. The fruit pulp had become jelly-like, having released all its pectin. I used some of the cooking liquid for boiling up the fruit and sugar, and I was very pleased with the intensely fruity result. The bonus was the extra pectin-rich liquid with which I made a mango and tangerine marmalade. I cut the tangerine peel into thin strips, and cooked it in the liquid until soft before adding the tangerine pulp, scooped out with a teaspoon, and the chopped mango pulp and sugar.

For many people marmalade is the essential breakfast item, but it has its uses as a condiment and flavouring. Many meats, such as duck, chicken, pork, veal, rabbit

and pheasant, are well matched with bitter-sweet orange or other citrus flavours which can be imparted by adding a little marmalade to a sauce, a marinade or a glaze. It also goes surprisingly well with fish dishes. Baked butter puddings, steamed puddings, cabbage puddings such as souffles and pancakes will all take a marmalade sauce. And it makes a very good sweetening agent for apples and pears, as an occasional replacement for honey or sugar. The flavour of marmalade is already concentrated, and added to quick-cooking dishes, it gives them an extra dimension of flavour that gives the impression of long, slow cooking. I am not suggesting that you flavour everything with marmalade, but here are a few ideas for using up the jars in your cupboard before your next marmalade making session.

Spiced grilled skewers of fish (serves 4 as a starter)
Use monkfish, conger eel and trimmed scallops if possible, and light or dark sesame oil not the pale, cold-pressed oil

1lb/455g firm fleshed fish, off the bone
2tbsp orange or grapefruit juice
1tbsp orange or grapefruit marmalade
2tsp sesame oil
1tsp soy sauce
pepper

4tsp ground allspice
4tsp ground cardamom
2tbsp toasted sesame seeds
Garnish: fresh coriander or parsley and orange or grapefruit slices or segments

Cut the fish into 1in/2.5cm cubes, and leave the scallops whole if using them. Heat the juice and marmalade and strain it into a bowl. Mix in the sesame oil, seasoning and spices, and stir in the fish until it is well coated. Marinate for 30 to 40 minutes. Thread the fish on to skewers, and place under a moderately hot grill for about eight minutes, turning and basting from time to time. Then arrange the skewers on individual plates, sprinkle with the toasted sesame seeds and arrange the garnish. This is very good served with brown rice and a small green salad.

Stuffed orange-glazed duck (serves 4)
4 duck breasts
1 orange
1tbsp orange marmalade
2tbsp Southern Comfort or whisky
Stuffing

5oz/140g cooked rice or 3oz/85g soft breadcrumbs
1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped
1 celery stalk, trimmed and finely chopped

4 dried apricots, soaked and chopped
1tbsp pine kernels or chopped walnuts
1tbsp finely chopped parsley
salt
pepper

Remove the fillets from the duck breasts, and use in another recipe. Use a sharp knife to make a deep pocket in each duck breast to hold the stuffing, taking care not to pierce the flesh around the edges. Score the duck skin quite deeply, diagonally and across. This will help the fat to drain away as the meat cooks. Grate the orange zest, and mix with half of the orange juice, marmalade and liquor. Brush the duck breasts with this mixture. Mix the stuffing ingredients with the rest of the orange juice and spoon into the breast cavity.

Brush the meat with more of the basting liquid, and arrange the duck breasts on a wire rack in a roasting pan. Place towards the top of a pre-heated oven, and roast at 220°C/425°F, gas mark 7 for about 12 to 15 minutes. Cooking time will depend also on the thickness of the meat and how well done you like it. Brush the meat with the orange mixture twice during cooking. Remove from the oven, and allow the meat to rest in a warm place for five to 10 minutes. Serve with a water-

cross salad and plain boiled or steamed potatoes in their jackets. Sweet glazes are a very popular way of cooking root vegetables, especially to serve with plainly roasted or grilled meat or poultry. Marmalade makes an excellent glaze, with plenty of flavour of its own to add a subtle bitter-sweet taste. Try lemon marmalade with carrots, orange marmalade with parsnips or beetroots and lime marmalade with turnips or swedes.

Lemon-glazed carrots (serves 4)
1lb/455g carrots
1oz/30g butter
1-2tbsp lemon marmalade
salt
white pepper
1tbsp finely chopped chives or parsley

Peel or scrub the carrots as appropriate. Slice them, cut into batons or leave whole, depending on size. Put them in a saucepan with an inch of water and simmer gently until almost tender. Stir in the butter, marmalade and seasoning and raise the heat. Allow the cooking juices to amalgamate to a glaze and transfer to a serving dish. Sprinkle with herbs before serving.

Omelette of orange pancakes with marmalade sauce (serves 2)
1/2lb/230g plain flour
1tsp salt
1tsp ground mace
3 eggs
12fl oz/340ml milk
4tbsp orange liqueur
1tbsp orange flower water
4-6oz/110-170g marmalade
To serve: whipped cream, thick yoghurt or creme fraiche (optional)

Sift together the flour, salt and mace, and make a well in the middle. Gradually beat in the eggs and milk, first to a smooth paste and then until you have a smooth batter. Stir in the liqueur and orange flower water. Use a non-stick or well-seasoned frying pan or omelette pan; heat it and then pour in just enough batter to coat the pan lightly with a lacy covering. If the pancakes are too thick, the finished dish will be stodgy. When the pancake is cooked on one side, that is when the top surface is dry and full of pinholes, turn or toss it and cook the other side. Slide the pancake on to a plate set over a pan of hot water, spread on it a little marmalade, and continue to cook the rest of the pancakes, stacking and spreading each one in turn. If you cover the stack with foil and leave it over the water, you can prepare to this point before dinner or lunch, and leave the pancakes while you get on with the rest of the meal. To serve, spread the top with a little more marmalade, cut into wedges like a cake and hand the cream or yoghurt separately.

Orange and marmalade make one version of this rather nice pudding: jam, cream and icing sugar and honey, lemon juice and yoghurt are also good combinations. The orange flavouring in the batter can be replaced with sherry. Amontillado or oloroso, for example, and the pile of pancakes can be served with cream whipped with sweet sherry, such as PX.

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FOOD

Mutton dressed as lamb

It's time for the British to stop giving mutton the cold shoulder - before new EC regulations mean that it's too late

Let us return to our muttons, as the French say when they want to get down to business. The trouble is, though, that all our muttons have turned into lambs. If you buy home-produced fresh lamb in the next few weeks you are likely, despite the advent of breeds which lamb twice a year, to be getting something which might pass for mutton. It is hardly likely to be called that, though. In the North and in Scotland, where some traditionalists may still ask for mutton, they are served with the same meat as people who come in and ask for lamb. Elsewhere mutton was given the cold shoulder (which was originally a cold shoulder of mutton - the leftovers) long ago.

It is a complete reversal of the traditional view - which was that sheep were not really worth eating until they were three years old. It was not turkey that Sam Weller looked for to make up "a friendly swan", but "a boiled leg of mutton with the usual trimmings", while John Home's "bold and erect Caledonian" stood so well because "Old was his mutton, and his claret good".

Mutton of two years old is flabby, pale and savourless, a Victorian authority decreed. "To suit the palate of an epicure, a sheep should never be killed earlier than its third or later than its fifth year, at which age the mutton will be firm and succulent, dark coloured and full of the richest gravy."

Mutton from three to five-year-old animals is, farmers and butchers who have tasted it agree, much finer meat and better in flavour than mere yearling hogget, which is what we get nowadays. But modern breeds fatten quickly. It would not pay farmers to keep wethers (castrated male sheep) for years unless they could sell the meat much more expensively than lamb. The public, though, cynically supposing that mutton comes from worn-out breeding ewes, expects mutton to be cheaper than lamb, not dearer.

Many butchers would, in fact, never have dealt with a ewe which she is specially fattened after the lamb has been taken from her and is slaughtered in summer, a ewe can provide very good eating meat. But mutton was never lamb, and could not be cooked in the same way. It requires slow cooking by boiling, stewing or roasting, and that does not commend it to today's hurried meal-snatchers.

Ewes' meat, the butchers say

darkly, goes now "for export, or for manufacturing". On the other hand, I have heard them privately doubt that there is any in so-called mutton pies, which still have some popularity in the North. Others claim the only mutton they ever see is imported frozen from the antipodes "for ethnic communities, Indian restaurants and so on". Even ethnic communities, though, are spurning mutton these days: lamb has supplanted mutton, even in curries.

Gary Rhodes, chef at the Castle Hotel in Taunton and revivalist-in-chief of the British culinary tradition, makes a major feature of boiled leg of mutton with caper sauce. It is, he says, larger, darker, fleshier, fatter and more earthy tasting, but properly cooked "a splendidly finished piece of meat".

He gets the mutton (and it is, of course, by no means three years old) by special arrangement with his local butcher, Stillmans of Taunton, which kills sheep - preferably black-faced ones of the downland and Suffolk varieties - on its own farm. Peter Cook of Stillmans remembers "superb meat" from sheep which had been turned out on Ex-moor on a diet supplemented with turnips. It is difficult, he says, to get meat like that any more.

And it may soon become quite impossible if EC regulations close down the small on-farm slaughterhouses where traditional butchers, like Stillmans, have killed and cut their own meat, rather than receiving it from a processing plant. "With the numbers we kill we can never afford to have meat inspectors standing around at £30 or £40 an hour," Cook says.

Already there is a disincentive against farmers taking sheep to a local butcher for rapid slaughter (which would be ideal as regards the quality of the meat afterwards) because fat lamb premiums are only paid if the stock goes through a market.

Robin Young

DRINK

Burns' Night celebrations call for the finest whisky, Jane MacQuitty writes, which means single malt

Make mine a single

Scots and Sassenachs alike should do the decent thing this Thursday and celebrate Burns' Night with a dram or two of malt whisky. This is not just because a great single malt is one of the most satisfying spirits, but because our whisky industry is still shaky after a depressed and troubled decade. The worst could be over, however, and malt whisky's ever-increasing sales, up 10 per cent last year to almost half a million cases, look promising. Although the lighter, blended whiskies account for the lion's share of the whisky market, future hopes are pinned on single

malt, but the average whiskies contain about 40 per cent, and many contain even less. It is Scotland's distinctive combination of double distillation in a copper pot still, malted barley, soft, often peat-influenced spring water, and a damp, cold climate that make single malts so fine. The oak casks that the colourless spirit is aged in, gradually gathering colour and flavour, also have a great influence on the character of the final product. Macallan ages its whisky entirely in sherry casks. These slight differences between one distillery and another account for the very different tastes that each of the single malts displays.

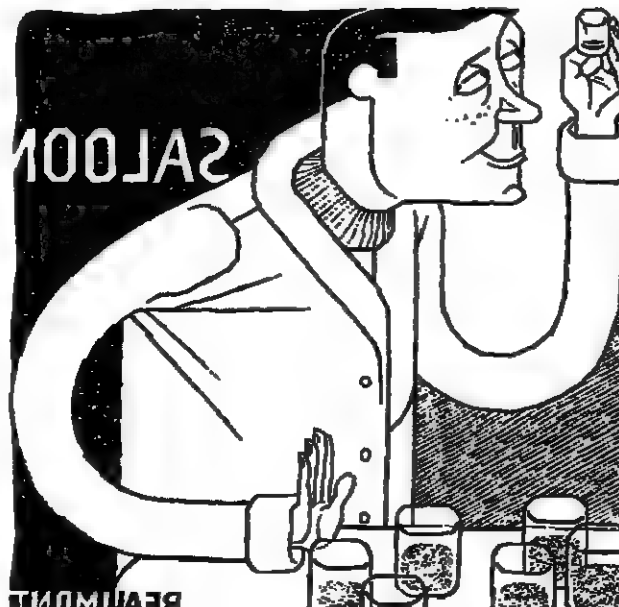
The large, onion-shaped copper pot stills perhaps affect the end result most. Distillery managers are so convinced of this that when a worn-out still has to be renewed an identical one is erected in its place, complete with any dents or knocks that the old one may have had. No one knows exactly what the copper pot still contributes to the end product, but it is clear that the Broddingnagian-sized stills at Glenmorangie, the largest in Scotland, produce lighter flavours than the small, squat stills with their heavier, fuller-flavoured spirits, like those used by Macallan.

The malted barley, dried traditionally over a peat fire, has become less of a distinguishing factor in single malt, since most producers now buy their needs rather than produce their own. But

there are different levels of maturing, and single malt producers which are known for their strength and power would use a heavy, peat-dried malt. Water is an important factor, and whatever character the local distillery burn water displays, whether it is soft and gentle like the Glenlivet's or with a heavy peat-reek flavour like that in Islay, it will be reflected in the final product. This also explains why the finest dram from any single malt house will always be tasted in the distillery manager's office, when water from the local well will be used to cut the whisky: 50-50 is the acknowledged finest blend.

Scotland's climate is the least tangible of the factors that make a fine single malt, but it is important. The oak casks in which single malts are matured for at least eight years are porous, and the cold, wet Scottish climate gradually softens the fierce spirit into a fine whisky. Some malt whisky connoisseurs claim that the iodine, seaside-like scents found in Islay malts are a direct result of sea breezes.

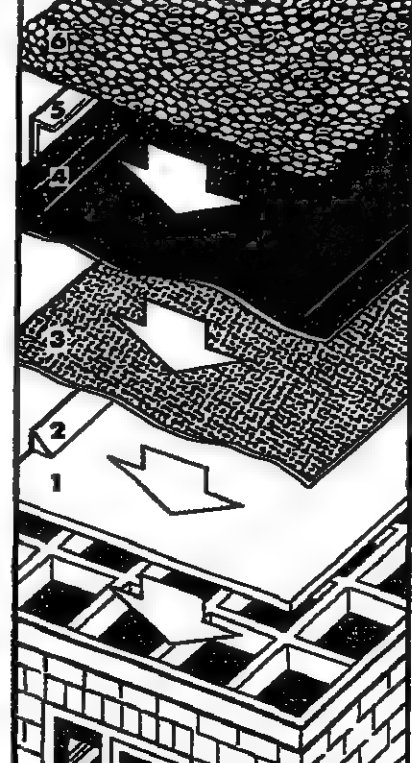
Single malts are expensive, and none of us wants to splash out on a disappointing Burns' Night bottle. As it has been some time since I last evaluated the high street own-label single malts, I thought I would track down the best of these, plus some of the rare, "unusual", six high street bottles blind, with Majestic's Five Year Old blend tipped in to keep me on my toes. Top, but only just, was Tesco's Islay



Single Malt Whisky, a fine 10-year-old priced at £12.75, whose splendid, earthy scent and taste would make a great introduction to an Islay single malt. Easier to appreciate and almost as impressive was Thresher's Glen Tanna, a 10-year-old, whose spicy, musky, gingery style is excellent value at £11.19. The ordinary 10-year-old from Tesco (£11.49) and eight-year-old from Wainwright (£10.50) came next, followed by Majestic's blended offering (£7.95). Last was Sainsbury's Twelve Year Old (£14.50), which had a dirty, musky style. A much more palatable exercise was the line-up of 22 rare single malts. I also was delighted that Lagavulin's Sixteen Year Old Islay malt came first. This magnificent malt is what a great Islay offering is all about - a delicious, big, bold,

iodine and peat-reek taste (Oodbbins £15.99, going up to £17.49 on Monday, The Victoria Wine Company £16.79). Joint first with Lagavulin was Macallan's fine, flowery and elegant 18-year-old Highland malt, bottled in 1971 (Oodbbins £22.49, Milroy's, 3 Greek Street, London W1, £22.90). Slightly behind these two came the rare Ledaig, a 1973 Hebridean bottling from the island of Mull, whose very strong, pungent, smoky, iodine-like flavour may not be appreciated by all (Oodbbins £16.25, Milroy's £16.60). I also enjoyed Dallas Dhu, a 1972 Highland bottling, with its full-bodied, spicy, gingery character (Oodbbins £16.49), along with Cragganmore, a 12-year-old Highland malt, whose soft, waxy-spicy style is good value (Oodbbins £13.99, going up to £15.69 on Monday, Milroy's £15.40).

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Robert Nye on the uniquely strange vision of Boris Pasternak

In the sad and angry hullabaloo which surrounded Boris Pasternak throughout his last years, it was sometimes forgotten in the West that he was primarily a poet — perhaps the most important Russian poet of the century, though there are some of us who would give that honour to Mandelstam. Yet the Nobel Prize was offered for his “important contributions to contemporary poetry” as much as for his one novel, *Dr Zhivago*, and it is at least arguable that it is the poems — with all their puzzled and introverted music — for which he will ultimately be remembered.

Pasternak is a difficult poet, so I am told, even in the original. Andrei Navrosov speaks of the temptation to translate him into Russian — a witty way of referring to the unique strangeness of his vision, as well as the peculiarity of his diction.

Navrosov values the work up to about 1932 the highest, and makes an excellent case for this preference in the introduction and notes to the 46 poems which he gives us in English versions as *Second Nature*. These early poems are full of surprising, but not arbitrary, images drawn from Pasternak's sense of the fragmentation of modern life. Sometimes these images are so startling that they hold the attention too much (as a too brilliant neck-tie might ruin the appearance of an otherwise well-dressed man), but usually they are inventive and exact in equal measure, the working parts of a poetry always packed with feeling and intelligence, even if its total import seems doubtful.

The writer as poet

POETRY

SECOND NATURE

46 poems by Boris Pasternak

Translated by Andrei Navrosov

Peter Owen, £13.95

POEMS 1953-1988

By Anthony Thwaite

Hutchinson, £8.95

obscure, half-defined in a shyly oblique and take-it-or-leave-it way:

My sister — life — is again out flooding.

Smashed, like spring rain,

Against what is past,

But people with pendants are

Attentively stinging, like snakes

in the grass.

The rhythm runs counter to the complexity of the thought, as though Swinburne had set himself the task of re-visioning the knottier bits of John Donne. Whether this is true to the texture of Pasternak in his prime, I cannot say; but it reads plausibly enough, and since Navrosov evinces every sign of loving and revering the great originals, I am prepared to believe that what we have here is a sincere attempt to recreate in English verse the effect of reading Pasternak in Russian. That is not quite the same thing as a translation, of course, but then Navrosov is probably too close to Pasternak to want to translate him.

● *Poems 1953-1988*, by Anthony Thwaite, contains much well-judged rhetoric, and a few poems where the author seems about to speak through the mask in what might be taken to be his own voice rather than that of a suburban Yeats or a rather improbably bardic Philip Larkin. I can admire Thwaite's command of technique, but can't help thinking that he's at his best when he is clumsiest, as in “Difficult”:

Not much is simple: you can

never say

Straight out what ten more

minutes will make worse.

His most interesting poems have what a late poem of Pasternak's memorably defined as an “after-thunder freshness” (this is a translation by the Russian poet's younger sister, Lydia Pasternak Slater). The trouble with them, perhaps, is that unlike Pasternak's, they never quite give us the thunder itself.

We are not always amused

Hugo Vickers

ROYAL DRESS

By Valerie Cumming

Batsford, £17.95

THE ROYAL GUNROOM AT SANDRINGHAM

By David J. Baker

Phaidon/Christie's, £70

Batsford originally wanted Valerie Cumming to create a picture book on royal and court dress, but she decided to take a more idiosyncratic approach. She had been first curator of the Court Dress Collection at Kensington Palace, and is now deputy director of the Museum of London, which houses many royal robes. She therefore wished to analyse rather than merely illustrate.

I enjoyed her historical section, and soon learned that she was a stern and keen critic, sometimes dismissive. A favourite recurring word in this book is “absurd”, which appears in one form or another at least a dozen times. Later on I have to confess I was less happy. Her approach to the present royal family struck me as somewhat hostile. Perhaps they rather bored her, but this does not make for enjoyable reading. I prefer what might be called the enthusiastic approach. I cite a line such as: “Sophisticated and well advised public figures (amongst whom royalty are rarely to be found).” And she cannot surely mean to describe Princess Michael of Kent as “the first true Cinderella, of the modern variety”. She is also analytical to the point of being personal in such phrases as “her generous, somewhat low-slung, and thoroughly Windsor bosom”.

For a scholar she makes one or two errors: the Queen did not transfer from military uniform to a pastel coat and hat at Trooping the Colour as a way “to modernize royal ceremonial dress”, but because she did not wish to embark on the untravelling of a new horse in her 60s. (It was a wise decision as the Queen was clearly still quite capable of riding on parade.) Edward VII would hardly have demanded that Queen Alexandra change her Garter star “from the left of her bodice to the right”: it would have been the reverse. And George V is dressed as Admiral not Admiral of the Fleet in the photograph at Edward VII's funeral — three rings on the sleeve, not four.

I was annoyed by the disparaging references to Cecil Beaton, a source the author frequently drew on, while clearly finding him absurd. I wondered why she chose a photograph of the Windsors “marred by the absurd screen and draperies against which Cecil Beaton posed them”, when there was such a wide choice of other Beaton wedding photographs available. Valerie Cumming has worked for four years on this book. She concludes: “Fashion equals frivolity, invites criticism, and devalues the magic; stylized grandeur equals dignity, invites respect, and promotes historical continuity.”

The Royal Gunroom at Sandringham is a different kind of book, lavishly illustrated and expensively produced. Over the years many books have emerged dealing with aspects of royal life, their houses, their farms, their jewels, indeed their dress. This one is destined for the experts who understand and like to look at photographs of handsome royal shotguns and pistols. At £70 for 160 pages it is elevated to connoisseur league, and handsome though it is, its interest is limited. It would certainly not have tempted me to reach for my cheque book.

In his preface, Prince Philip tells us that the collection is particularly good, because the guns were too valuable to be thrown away without being valuable enough to make selling a good proposition. The author, David Baker, has been immensely thorough. I think this book would make a handsome “house guest” present from anyone invited for an expensive week's grouse shooting in August.

QUICK LIST

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

The Aeneid, by Virgil, translated by Robert Fitzgerald (Penguin Classics, £5.95) I sing of warfare and a man at war... quite formal, fairly stately, five-footed verse.

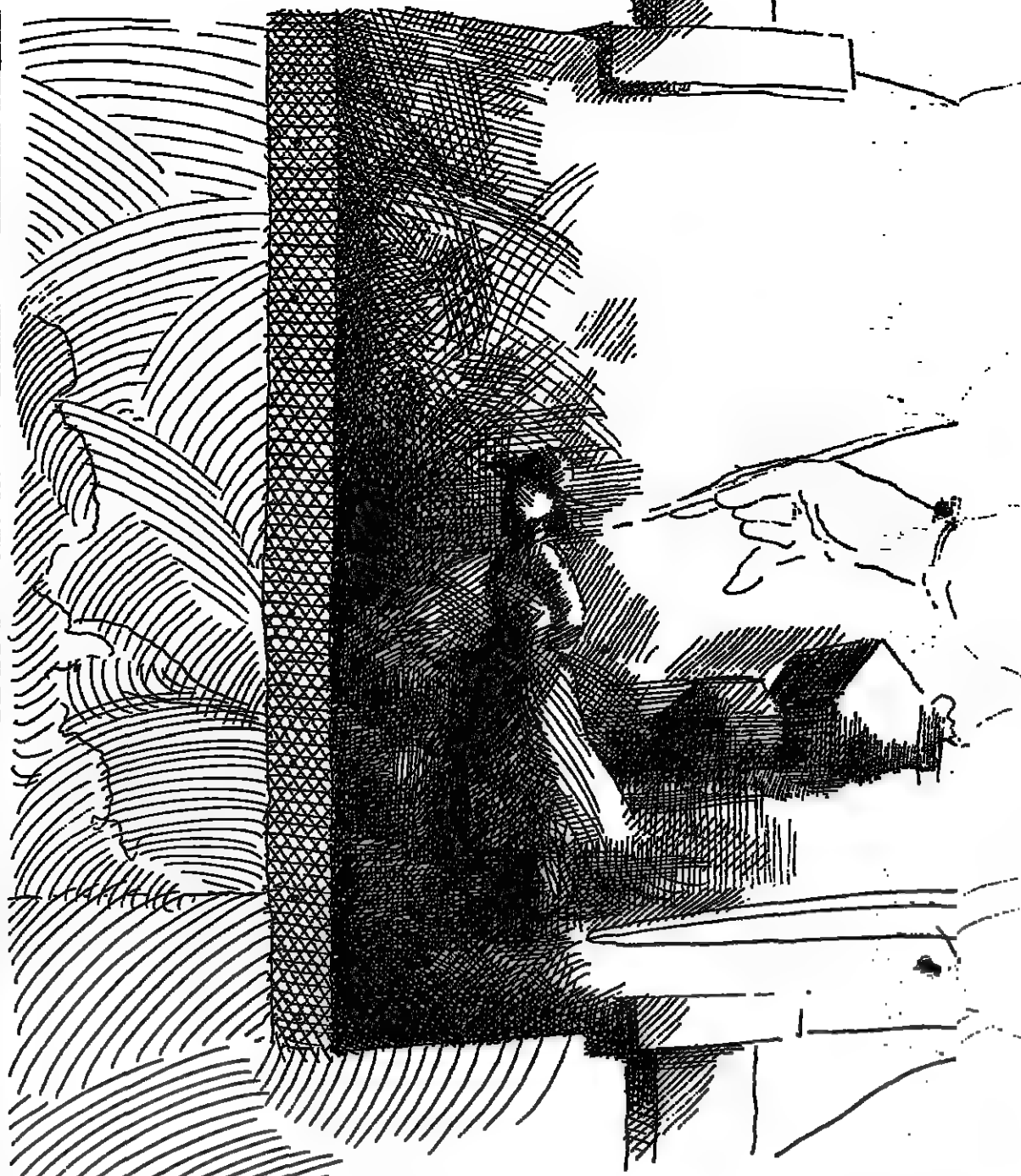
Driving Through Cuba, by Carlo Gadda (Abacus, £4.50) Entertaining portrait and jargon in one of the last, increasingly isolated outposts of evangelistic Communism.

Flemish Cities Explored, by Derek Slyn (The Bodley Head, £10.95) From Mennin to convivial cafés, with maps and pictures, around the spectacular blossoming of Flemish art and architecture, just over the water.

When Sisterhood Was in Flower, by Florence King (Black Swan, £3.95) V. funny on feminist movement in Boston in the Seventies, original paperback.

Somerset Maugham, by Frederic Raphael (Cardinal, £4.95) Lively and controversial monograph, arguing among much else that the clever old saurian was preserved from dotiness by his gayness.

The Spanish Civil War 1936-39, by Paul Preston (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £7.95) Fair-minded and gripping narrative and analysis with vivid news pictures.



Lost in Ireland

Short stories have no rules. So it's not necessarily a criticism to say that what you won't find in William Trevor's new collection of stories is anger, passion, joy, transcendence, transformation, hope, or the possibility of change. Even tragedy is dimmed — by acceptance, avoidance, non-recognition, or sheer smallness.

Actually, it begins to get you down. “Does it happen,” wonders one of Trevor's women, “in other people's lives, that a single event influences all subsequent time?” There is a bleak determinism about Trevor's current way of seeing things which makes life seem hardly worth pursuing to its dreary end. He writes about his native Ireland, but not about the brash, youthful, entrepreneurial Ireland of recent decades. His Ireland is provincial, constricting, punitive. Even when his Irish stories are not set in the 1940s, as several are, they might as well be.

The important things there have happened, usually, long ago, as in “Events at Drimaghlea”: “There were memories of dramatic occurrences; stories from a more distant past were told.” Something new and terrible does happen at Drimaghlea — a triple murder in a farmyard — and the narrative veers away from the horror to focus on the fallen bicycle of one of the

Victoria Glendinning finds few rays of stories about people who are only ending

victims, and two dead rabbits. It might as well not have happened. The survivors bury their dead, and their grief, and carry on — still journalists from an English newspaper violate their privacy. “What kind of people are they?” ask the old couple — who have nevertheless taken money from the journalists in exchange for an interview. These 12 stories are about abuse, fear and failure, blunted by fortitude, and sharpened, unpleasantly, by cruelty and greed.

The title story, “Family Sins”, is one of several in which the hatreds and jealousies of one generation are carried over into the next. Misty, pretty young girl, as in this story, are the victims. The young men who see the girls' plight are unable to love them enough to rescue them. In “In Love with Ariadne”, set in a boarding-house in Dublin, a student takes out the landlady's sweet, shy daughter just once — after which she is banished to a convent. She is the daughter of a suicide, and so unfitted for love. The student, who thinks she “had the look of a saint”, is left with a

FAMILY SINS

And Other Stories

By William Trevor

The Bodley Head, £14.99

“useless longing to change circumstances that had been”.

In “Kathleen's Field” there is even a young man to dream of rescuing Kathleen from life as a scivvy to swifl Mrs O'Shaughnessy, who runs the grocery and bar in a small Irish town. Her father borrows money from the O'Shaughnessys to buy a field. The money is paid back by Kathleen's wages, so she is penniless — as well as exploited, homesick, and sexually abused by heavily-breathing Mr O'Shaughnessy. A bargain's a bargain, as is mother says.

It's not only the sins of a parental generation that paralyse the present. If you are deprived of all family background, like the young couple reared in institutions in “A Trinity”, who book a trip to Venice and find themselves on pensioners' holiday in Switzerland, you are still a loser. Nothing can be done, from the beginning.



Tale wagging

FOR CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

FU-DOG

By Rumer Godden

Illustrated by Valerie Littlewood

Julia MacRae Books, £9.95

Here is a bold exhibition of Chinese conjuring. All the paraphernalia are laid out for an arch little story of a kind not much in fashion today. The girl Li-li receives from Great Uncle a green satin Fu-dog — a small replica of the one that used to guard temples and palaces. Fu-dog would seem to exert magic powers, not greatly appreciated by Li-li's older brother Malcolm. (“Stuff,” says he.) But some sort of magic does flow. The children manage to get themselves on to a train for a 400-mile journey to London, and Fu-dog is deeply implicated in what then happens: meetings with Wu-uncle and Great-

Uncle, a Chinatown parade, calamity and restoration, feasting and prezzies. Large chunks of this narrative ought by rights to collapse under their own posterousness, but that is to reckon without the author's assured conviction. A clear sense of the real substantiates the fantastic, and behind the standard children's book phrasings there are the sharp observations and the crisp rejoinders of an individual voice. This strange mixture of conventions is mirrored in Valerie Littlewood's ornate illustrations.

Self-censored memories from wartime Britain

By 1939 and the outbreak of war Vera Brittain was a public figure, in great demand as a pacifist, as a political activist, and as the author of the bestselling account of the First World War, *Testament of Youth*. She travelled the length and breadth of the country almost as often as an Intercity 125, almost as fast as Michael Heseltine.

Each page of *Wartime Chronicle*, the third volume of her diaries, is a testament to the energy and commitment she displayed in this middle period of her life: the narrative is laced, even laden, with lists of her appointments, and studded with initials of the groups she visited.

When she wasn't at the Peace Pledge Union, she'd be at the Federal Union, or the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Then again it could be the IVS, the CBCO, the CORB, or the FAU, or indeed the ILP, the IVSP, the LNU, or the UDC, not to mention the UNRRA, the WIL, the WVS or, of course, the good old PO. She gave speeches and more speeches, wrote letters and more letters. She wrote books on the war and pamphlets on the war. This is her diary of the war. Clearly this campaigning pacifist was much too busy to fill her private writings with either contemplation of the soul or detailed observation of wartime Britain: one conclusion drawn from reading these diaries is, in fact, that Brittain was much too busy to write a diary at all.

However, she does find time to note down the state of the weather and of the crocuses, the best places for buying hot water bottles and for having hair shampooed. In its own way, of course, this is fascinating stuff, but it is fundamentally trivial. As such, *Wartime Chronicle* is a frustrating read. It takes a strong magnifying glass and a lot of

Nicola Murphy

WARTIME CHRONICLE

By Vera Brittain

Edited by Alan Bishop and Y. Aleksandra Bennett

Gollancz, £16.95



Political activist: Vera Brittain

determination to uncover the personal thoughts and the private life of perhaps the most celebrated pacifist of the Second World War. It is only just possible to piece together a full picture of the public Vera Brittain, the Vera Brittain who hated the “vulgarily jubilant” Churchill, hated the bombing of German civilians, and hated the food blockades of enemy-occupied countries. It is a picture of a highly-

strung woman with an unbending sense of duty; a woman who would stand by a shell-shocked friend who murdered his wife, by a canon jailed for releasing Government secrets. This is a woman who, separated for three years and by the Atlantic Ocean from the children she loved and was not allowed to visit, stood resolute in the face of “patriotic” hate mail, in the face of PFIU internal rivalry, chauvinism, and scandal.

These are events that we want to read about, events that Brittain does not want to write about. *Wartime Chronicle* illustrates how the diarist preferred to live from day to day: “I take each thing as it comes and I try not to think too much about the complete shattering of my life since a year ago. And since two decades ago.” Brittain had experienced a terrible amount of pain during her life. In *Chronicle of Youth* the war-fevered undergraduate diarist lost her brother, her lover, her friends and her idealism. So did many. But not so many would go on to suffer the suicide of an invalid father. Her dearest friend, Winifred Holtby, then died within a month, while only in her late thirties.

Understandably, Brittain did not want “to think too much”; when at her lowest she despised her timidity, despised her lack of self respect, and felt that all her achievements were “dust and ashes”. Essentially, though, *Wartime Chronicle* shows that Brittain had learnt how to live with her personal pain by channeling energy into her public crusade. Although the original manuscripts have been cut by a third, self-censorship has played a greater part in making this volume of Brittain's diaries so unsatisfying a read. Hiding thoughts and feelings helped Brittain; unfortunately it hasn't helped her editors, and it doesn't help us.

Out of Israel

Hugh David

PATHS FROM A WHITE HORSE

By Peter Vansittart

Quartet, £6.95

he phrase is hackneyed, but true nevertheless: Peter Vansittart is a writer's writer. And in *Paths from a White Horse*, more of a meditation on life than a structured autobiography, he recalls how he came to be one.

Successive chapters do nominally relate how a lonely, only child whose parents were mysteriously “out East” survived infancy, prep school, Haileybury, Oxford and the pubs and rebuffs of literary London, but only in the way that *Hamlet* is about what happens when the Prince returns to Denmark. As readers of his novels will know, Vansittart is primarily concerned with secret worlds and the prancing white horses of the imagination, and in the first half of this “writer's memoir” he explores the inner landscapes of childhood with the authority of a Livingstone.

His was a loner's literary childhood, dominated by an early case of what Denis Norden would later dub “literarism”. When just “a kid” — and thus “likely to be napped” — he believed that “overdraft” really meant “death from cold”. He was (and has miraculously remained) entranced by the sheer incantatory power of words such as “esplanade”, “troika” and “charcoal-burner”. He yearned to be in towns with names like Cyst St Mary or Nijni-Novgorod, and to take his place alongside writers who “tended to have names substantiating the glamour of their trade”: Rafael Sabatini, H. de Vere Stacpoole, E. Phillips Oppenheim, Harrison Ainsworth, L. du Gard Peach. (Sadly, he never completed a novel begun under his own nom de guerre, E. Mountstuart Temple.)

At first, reality was but a pale reflection of this thesaurus of felicitous “Ramsay Mac” and “GBS” were only bogymen; girls no more than “fancy dressed creatures”; and when Brittain abandoned the Gold Standard, Vansittart inevitably “imagined a flag of 15 carat gold, abandoned upright

on a desolate shore”. Soon, however, real villains emerged — Mussolini, the Führer and his stormtroopers all had sinisterly appropriate names — but in 1937 and 1938 even they barely impinged on what had become a desperate search for “the Best Friend”.

He appeared in 1939. As he was about to start his “rapid” career at Oxford, Vansittart met Wilfrid Israel near the Leg of Mutton Pond on Hampstead Heath. Divine intervention surely that in such a singularly-named spot he should encounter another who shared his infatuation with words, who could talk about everything “from Bismarck to the derivation of a local pub-sign, the Naked Boy”.

It was as if talking to Israel finally convinced him to “go public”. He began committing to paper the words which had jangled and dazzled in his imagination for the previous 20 years, and became a writer. In wartime Fitzrovia he met George Orwell, “once stepped over Dylan Thomas” and survived Julian Maclaren-Ross's stinging (but characteristic) verdict on his first novel: “Charro book. Yellow cover. Title blocked in blue. Very pompous.”

Israel was killed in 1943; but, like Vansittart, we owe him a debt of gratitude. This dazzling, generous, intoxicating book has a whiff of adolescent wonder about it. To read it is to stand in the wind, near the Leg of Mutton Pond, mesmerized by the potentialities of words and the world. Maclaren-Ross-like, however, it is also only fair to comment: Quartet book. Appalling cover. Brown-grey and sludge green. Title dull brown. Unreadable from three feet.



City slicker: Djuana Barnes wrote

Wonder

Djuana Barnes was one of those original, unheralded American writers who arrived in Paris in the 1920s. For all anyone knew, she was female Jay Gatsby, pursuing a dream of artistic fulfilment now lashed in the empty space of a great American hinterland. She carried with her letters of introduction to Joyce and Ezra Pound, and in her suitcase there was a manuscript of the novel.

Barnes became one of the stylistic caparities in the American literary colony. Her writing was admired by Hemingway, T.S. Eliot praised his novel, *Nightwood*, for the beauty of its phrasing and brilliance of style. Largely forgotten since the 1930s she died a recluse in Greenwich Village in 1982. Since then the *Sat* & *Moon* Press in New York and Virago in London have published series of attractive volumes, of which *New York* is the third.

New York is a miscellaneous collection of “local colour” pieces of journalism written about high life and low life in New York in 1913. She entered the cage of *Diana*, the gorilla at the New Zoological Society to do a view, and noted “a queer sort of drawing-room caution” about pot. Dinah.

THE ARTS

Top theatre designer Stefanos Lazaridis has turned to opera direction, opening with some bold Bartók. Hilary Finch reports

Slinking into the light and dark



Stefanos Lazaridis: exploring the idea of the quest for self through lucid and cohesive chains of images

When I was arguing with Stefanos Lazaridis some six years ago about his designs for English National Opera's *Rusalka* and *Osud*, his conundrum was "do you leave the piece to speak for itself through the music, or do you go under the skin, under the metaphor?"

Since working with David Pountney (*Midsummer Marriage*, *Lady Macbeth*) and Lyubimov (*Fidelio*, *Tristan*, *The Possessed*), Lazaridis has pursued still further his near-obsessive desire to reach the very nerve-centre of an opera through a lucid and cohesive chain of images. He has now turned to direction: next week, Scottish Opera will unveil his new production of Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*, presented in a double-bill with Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*.

Brought up in Ethiopia until he was 18, with no theatre at all, Lazaridis set his sights on being a film director. In England, he was bored by the Central School of Speech and Drama; he looked for hands-on work, and found it in the company of designers.

Since then he has been one of the most sought-after designers in both opera and theatre, and has won several awards. "But in the back of my mind — for the last 10 years I would say — I felt directing was what my whole system wanted. I had firm offers to direct. But I still resisted. I was a coward. How do you start a career in your mid-forties?"

He ended up slinking in by the back door. After designing *Oedipus Rex* for Opera North eight years ago, he was asked to stage its 1988 revival. "Nobody knows I did it! But I think I got it better than it used to be. I didn't have the guts, incidentally, to do it on my own..." Michael Hunt, who collaborated then, will be Lazaridis' co-director in Glasgow.

Then Richard Mantle, Scottish Opera's Managing Director, put forward the idea of going solo in *Bluebeard*. "I instantly said yes. It was an instinctive response."

It is ironic, though, that Lazaridis' directing debut should come with a work for long considered unstageable, and frequently seen only in concert performance. Plot and action are minimal, as Judith confronts Bluebeard and persuades him to open his seven forbidden doors. Light and image are all. So did Lazaridis work from the visual image onwards?

"Not in fact the reverse was true. I went at once for the dramatic aspects of the opera, reading about Bartók and deciding what it all meant for me. This is a very personal interpretation. I actually had great difficulty coming up with a design that would serve the direction. I even thought, at one point, of engaging another designer."

Lazaridis may have to move only two people about, but he has on his hands, in Kodály's words, "a musical volcano that erupts for 60 minutes of compressed tragedy, and leaves us with only one desire: to hear it again." How did he begin to find a way in?

The presence of *Oedipus Rex* was a stimulus. "They're both examinations of marriage. And they are both thrillers. There are Biblical hints, too, which excite the imagination. Think of Judith and Holofernes: Judith the castrator. Think of Judith as Eve, or as Lot's wife. Is curiosity about it all that a woman in a man's life must be discreet, so as not to violate the hidden places of the masculine self?"

"I could have focused on the theme of man as loner, as the great

Now Lazaridis' zigzag of suspended walkways being constructed above the dark, mottled space were beginning to make sense. I was incautious enough to ask whether the doors were all going to be on different levels? "What are doors? There is a pathway from heaven down into Bluebeard's pit. There is the possibility of light. And light is spirit. Judith can be almost a Christ figure. She arrives to cleanse; but does she arrive of her own volition? Or does Bluebeard bring her? That is the question."

I remarked, rather more cautiously, on the four-poster bed and the table and chair. "Yes. They are both areas where one consumes, are they not? And they will be used for that purpose. The violence on that stage is phenomenal."

Small wonder that Lazaridis is now turning down more work than he is accepting. Not for him an epic *Semiramide* at Nice or a starry *Barber* at the Met. "I want to continue along this vein, exploring the idea of the human being, the quest for the self, and the agony of finding a way in which to co-exist with one's fellow beings." He is designing David Pountney's new *Macbeth* for ENO, and there is the possibility of his directing a *Salome* in Bern. Plenty of scope for the *animus* and *anima* there.

The double-bill of *Bluebeard's Castle* and *Oedipus Rex* opens at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, next Wednesday.

Unseasonal winds

Stephen Pettitt
The Seasons
Barbican

As many as 20 first violins, H.C. Robbins Landon's copious programme notes told us, may have been used for the first performance of Haydn's *The Seasons* in Vienna. At the beginning of the piece one wished that John Eliot Gardiner had taken advantage of that precedent, for here the wind players put their string colleagues in the shade as far as balance was concerned, though things improved.

And why did Gardiner place the solo singer near the back of the orchestra? Distance helped none of them communicate the spirit of their roles.

The soprano, Brigitte Fosschler, sounded particularly remote from the work, almost reluctant to dare to put colour into her contributions. A pity, for one senses in her firm, bright voice the potential for

A mass of happiness

Clive Davis
Kenny Wheeler
Queen Elizabeth Hall

An almost tangible glow of goodwill hung above this opening date of Kenny Wheeler's 60th birthday tour. Few musicians arouse as much affection — and protective jealousy — as the Canadian-born trumpeter. If the big band charts composed for this Arts Council tour fell below Wheeler's usual standards, the South Bank audience seemed more than willing to forgive him.

Not that there could be any complaints about the players assembled on stage. The main work of the evening was a seven-part suite, offering cameo roles for most of the 15 players.

The last time Wheeler performed with a big band in London was with Orchestra UK, an all-star group whose debut concert promised more than it delivered. Then, as now, one of the biggest

Colourful twirls

Paul Griffiths
Scottish Early Music
Consort
Wigmore Hall

This was an entertaining portrait of 13th-century Paris from the Scottish group whose name fairly places them in the David Munrow tradition. Their stylistic and historical range is vast, from medieval liturgical drama to Burns-period songs and dances. They field a colourful mixture of voices and instruments: here a vocal trio with recorders, harp, fiddles and percussion. And their performances are strongly characterized.

For example, we heard the mezzo Fiona Milne and baritone Alan Watt falling progressively under the table during a song in praise of beer, and Milne brought out the erotic urgency of the anonymous *Lal des amants* (though this seemed well justified by the ostinato of melody and rhythm, including at one point 12 consecutive lines with the same rhyme).

But there were also moments of clarity, more lyrical singing and lighter scoring, such as the tenor

Lesser of Lessor

Benedict Nightingale
In Pursuit of the English
Lyric Studio

From the start, something seems wrong. A young woman arrives with suitcases on a smoke-filled stage where a postman does a little dance, someone else bangs spoons on his knees, and couples undulate and smooch in the murk to period songs. Is this really the shabby, exhausted London to which Doris Lessing came "in pursuit of the English" in 1949?

Yes, it is — or so Matthew Francis, directing Katie Campbell's adaptation of Lessing's marvellous memoir, would have us believe. When the action moves into the shambling lodging-house where she eventually laid her head, one feels fresh hope. There are now interestingly complex individuals to get to know. But even then the production does not get much less feverish, incoherent and unsuited.

Admittedly, Lessing's book is not easily dramatized. Though it brims with dialogue, one is always aware of her eye and mind, cannily observing and interpreting. The solution here — occasionally to let Melanie Jessop's Doris break into monologue while still conversing with others, seems half-hearted and confusing. One can accept some of the

Improvised pictures

Martin Cropper
Ing Glyns Evans and Greg Cullen

Much of their dialogue, to be sure, was repetitions, and the storyline told a safe enough path — a young married woman cannot bring herself to tell her widowed mother about her pregnancy for reasons of conubial friction, familial skeletons and a pall of Catholic guilt — but its eavesdropping on painful intimacies suggested what might be done with the format elsewhere. Above all, it somehow achieved the rare distinction of liberating the listener from mental pictures of the cast, the mike, the headphoned boffin and the effects door in its orphaned frame.

These items and more were concretized into the mind's eye by the latest broadcast offering from the prolific Howard Barker: *The Early Hours of a Reviled Man* (Radio 3, Tuesday) is a title that

Phenix Theatre

Phenix Theatre
Charing Cross Road, WC2N 0JP
Box Office 01-636 2282
01-240 6601-6671 (11)
Box Office 01-240 7200
01-240 7200 (11) (11)
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Must End January 27

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FOR HOCHHAUSER presents

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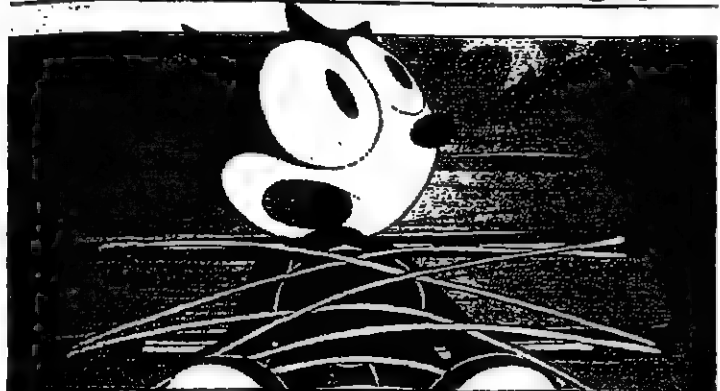
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SHOPPING

Felix claws a fortune

Following the Roger Rabbit film and merchandising success story, a 71-year-old cartoon cat is about to pounce on our hearts — and pockets — reports Nicole Swengley



Bill from Felix the Cat — The Movie, to be released by New World Pictures

Felix the cat is back on the prowl. The Felix fad, which has already hit Japan, Hong Kong, Australia and the United States, seems set to take Europe by storm in 1990. This summer, a full-length Felix feature film goes on general release in Britain and, in the meantime, this chirpy, confident cartoon character is spawning a whole array of eye-catching, generally well-made merchandise.

Manufacturers say it won't be long before we will be wearing Felix T-shirts and sweatshirts, sending Felix greetings cards, writing letters on Felix stationery, carrying Felix notebooks, sporting Felix brooches, umbrellas, pens and purses, carrying Felix shoulder bags and luggage, waking up to Felix alarm clocks and checking the time on Felix watches.

Licences being issued to British manufacturers by the copyright holder's licensing agency, Determined Productions of San Francisco, include those to companies making Felix duvet covers and

pillowcases, bathroom towels, kitchen textiles, lampshades, curtains, rugs and carpets, cushions, confectionery, leisure wear, boxer shorts, savings banks, photo frames, slippers, ear-muffs, key-rings, diaries and, of course, cuddly Felix toys.

Many of these manufacturers will be showing their wares at Birmingham's annual spring trade fair next month, and merchandise will be in the shops by March.

Nor is it only new Felixalia which is becoming cult and collectable. Sotheby's reports that a Felix toy made in 1928 sold for £462 at auction three years ago, outstripping its guide price by more than £250.

So why has Felix survived when other cartoon characters have come and gone? Perhaps the answer lies in his irrepressible personality and feline opportunism — the sort of mental and physical agility we would all adopt if we had the chance.

Felix's curious swagger became his trademark as, with head bowed and paws clasped behind his back, he figured the best way out of each

fix he fell into. His tail doubled as a fishhook, oar, or anything else which might save him from imminent disaster, while the bag of tricks he carried turned into a hole into which he dived when the going got too tough.

Unlike Disney's characters with their simplistic motives and all-good or all-bad traits, Felix was a more rounded character.

Audiences watching the early cartoons found it easy to relate to him. And with at least three generations of enthusiasts behind him, he seems set to be one of the most enduring folk images of the century.

It was a Sydney cabbie, Pat O'Sullivan, who created Felix the Cat. Sullivan (he dropped the Irish "O") was eking out a living in Australia drawing caricatures of boxing and racing celebrities.

In 1908 he headed for London, then America, and after trying his luck as a lightweight boxer, vaudeville theatre artiste and strip cartoonist turned his hand to the

emerging art of film animation. Although Felix's origins have never been fully documented, it is generally assumed that he was created for the 1919 silent film, *Feline Follies*.

Captivating his audiences around the time of Charlie Chaplin, and some 10 years before Mickey Mouse hit the screens, Felix embarked on a series of one-reel adventures and starred in a comic strip drawn by Sullivan's animator, Otto Messner, which, by 1923, was being syndicated round the world in more than 70 languages.

The inevitable flood of toys which followed in the wake of Felix's popularity became the lucky mascots of sports teams and lone adventurers.

When Charles Lindberg flew across the Atlantic in 1927 he had a Felix mascot with him. Aviator Ruth Elder was not so fortunate, coming down mid-ocean on her attempted crossing and, although she was rescued, her Felix mascot was lost. In a story which made headlines around the world, Sullivan cleverly sent her a cable

saying: "I am all right. Swim ashore. Will see you soon. Felix."

As Felix became increasingly popular, Sullivan became richer, spending more time drinking and less in the studio.

Then tragedy struck. His wife, Marjorie, fell to her death from the couple's seventh floor apartment in New York in 1932 and, within a year, Sullivan died of a combination of heavy drinking and pneumonia, aged 45.

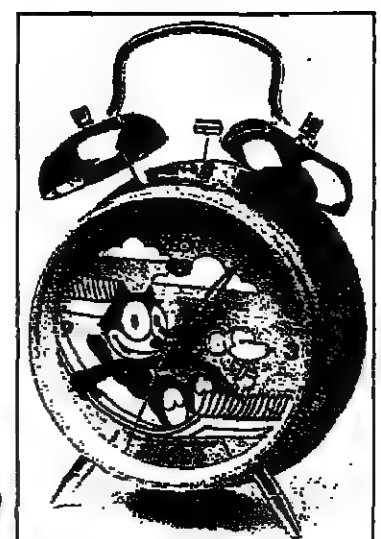
Although Messner continued to draw the comic strip, Felix's popularity waned in the face of Walt Disney's sound-with-colour animation. And, though the American animator Joe Oriolo revived Felix for television in the late Fifties, somehow things were never quite the same. But

Felix kept on walking... right into the Nineties, a comeback which only goes to show, if ever proof were needed, that lucky black cats — particularly famous ones — still have nine lives.



Moneybox, £10, Tokyo Boogie Beat

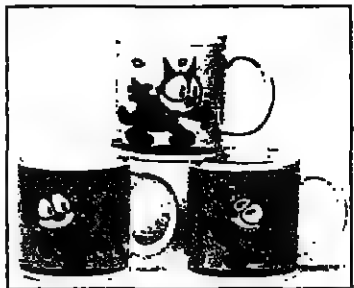
Keyring, £2.50, Tokyo Boogie Beat



Alarm clock, around £9.95, and watch, around £12.95, both by Zeon (stockists 01-208 1833)



Backpack, £14.50, Tokyo Boogie Beat, 17 Short's Gardens, WC2 (01-379 4338)



Mugs, £5, Tokyo Boogie Beat



Nightshirt available in UK shops from autumn (contact Blues Clothing on 01-602 6126)



Felix soft toy, £17.99, Covent Garden General Store



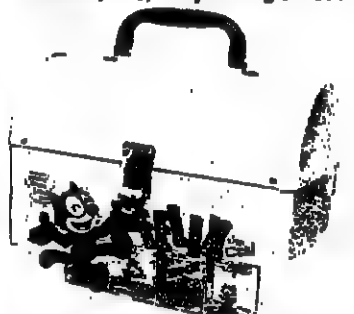
Enamel badges, £1.50 each, from the Museum of the Moving Image, South Bank, London SE1 (01-929 3535)



Metal tin, £10, Tokyo Boogie Beat



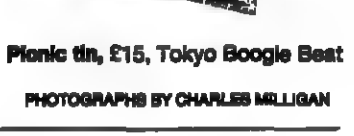
Pencil case, £5, Tokyo Boogie Beat



Picnic tin, £15, Tokyo Boogie Beat



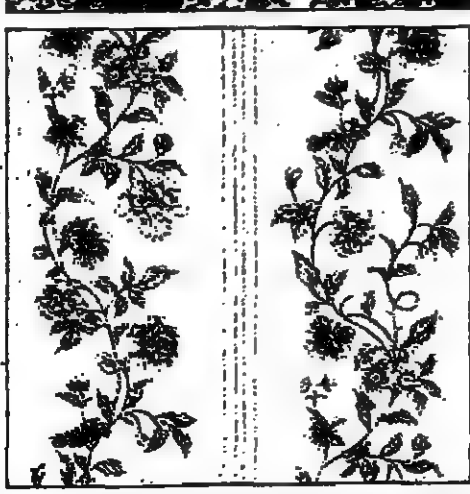
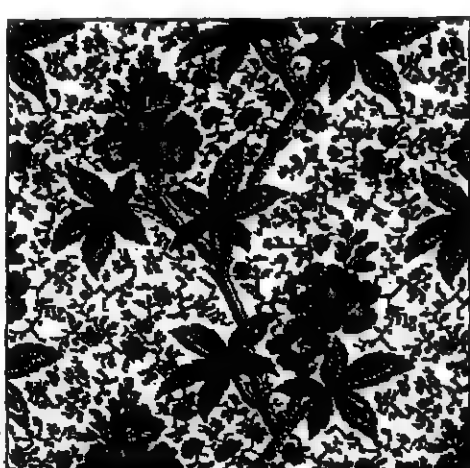
Felix furry slippers, around £14.95, in UK from August (contact Downcase on 01-903 3378)



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLES MILLIGAN

Design looks to the East

Adding spice to our long love affair with the East is a new collection of wallpapers, fabrics and tableware



Top left: "Indie" cotton chintz, £11.95 a metre. Top right: "Clive" country furnishing cotton, £11.95. Above left: "Chinoiserie Stripe" cotton chintz, £11.75. Above right: "Chinese Silk" tableware. Below: "Chinese Silk" soup tureen, £125

Ever since early travellers started to bring back goods from afar — silk, enamel and porcelain — oriental designs have fascinated westerners (Nicole Swengley writes). So this month Laura Ashley Home is celebrating Britain's long love-affair with the East by doing what the company does best — borrowing flavours from other sources and re-working them into a classic English look.

Its Indian Story collection reflects the rich, jewel-like colours of that country. "Clive", a fabric design inspired by a 19th-century document, features a trailing floral print in hot pinks and reds on a midnight-blue background.

"Rajpur", a small motif translated into wallpaper, was spotted by a Laura Ashley designer on a costume worn by an Indian figure in a miniature oil painting.

"Viceroy" is a design worked around a diamond-shaped symbol on chintz. Another chintz, named simply "India", combines freely painted Indian leaves with European flowers on a textured background.

"Jaipur", a large monoprime of stylized trailing leaves and exotic flowers, has also spawned two wallpapers — "Samarkand" and "Jaipur Stripe". Since the stripe was an important element in Indian design, there is a choice of three in this range.

The Chinoiserie Collection is a timely excuse for Laura Ashley Home to expand its selection of Chinese chintzes and introduce a range of Chinese-inspired tableware.

The "Chinoiserie Stripe" design, available as a chintz or

wallpaper, is based on traditional delicate Chinese watercolours, while the "Chinese Silk" tableware flavours the classic elegance of English crockery with a trailing Chinese flower design.

Also available is a blue-and-white lamp base, using designs taken from Chinese exportware of the early 19th century.

As a tribute to the 19th-century Grand Tour, the Laura Ashley design team turned to France for the inspiration which has provoked a selection of small floral prints such as "Arabella", a furnishing cotton combining floral and trellis stripes on a sprigged background, and "Meadowbank", a simple print of miniature flowers.

The Provence look is reflected in the "Contemporary Prints" fabrics influenced by painters such as Matisse and Dufy.

"Tulips" is a design based on the traditional bouquet



'Oriental flavours re-worked into a classic English look'

motif, while "Mosaic" is a splashy mass of colourful flowers.

Botany students took the Grand Tour to study flora and fauna, so Laura Ashley has translated their fine, naturalistic drawings into a series of fresh prints on spicy white backgrounds to give a lift to conservatories, kitchens, dining-rooms and halls.

Prices for the chintzes range from £11.95 to £16.95 a metre, and from £7.45 to £9.45 a metre for the country furnishing cotton. Upholstery fabric starts at £13.95 a metre, and the wallpapers, measuring approximately 52cm wide by 10.05m, cost from £7.45 to £8.95 a roll. "Chinese Silk" tableware: soup tureen, £125; covered vegetable dish, £65; coffee pot, £36.50; cup and saucer, £14.95; milk jug £24.95. All are available from branches of Laura Ashley Home.

What do men fear most? Impotence? Infidelity? (...or being found out?)

New Woman

Lust in the afternoon
The rules of the game

Together forever
— so why live apart?

SPECIAL

Are you the New Woman for us?

Who owns 10% of Jerry Hall? Greta Scacchi Yasmin Le Bon

The making of Spielberg

BABIES: who needs them?

The bitchy, bossy, brave new age of work

Love, Sex & Life... what men fear most

OUT NOW

New Woman. You can't be one without it.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BROADCASTING

THE REMAINS OF THE DAY: The new *Book at Bedtime* is Kazuo Ishiguro's 1989 Booker Prize winner about a butler reflecting on a lifetime of service in an English stately home, read by John Moffatt. Radio 4, Mon-Fri, 10.45-11pm.

AFTER HENRY: Prunella Scales as the widow caught between a nosy mother (the splendid Joan Sanderson) and errant daughter in a new series of Simon Brett's gentle comedy. ITV, Tues, 8.30-9pm.

PLENTY (1985): Meryl Streep, with an impeccable English accent, as a former Resistance fighter bored by the post-war world. First TV showing. BBC1, Fri, 9.30-11.30pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

KURT HUTTON: One of the original *Picture Post* photojournalists of the 1930s, as much at home recording insignificant moments of British life as the big news event. His ability to capture the humour and innocence of such moments puts him on a par with the likes of Robert Doisneau. The Photographers' Gallery, Print Room, 5 and 6 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (01-831 1772), from Jan 22.

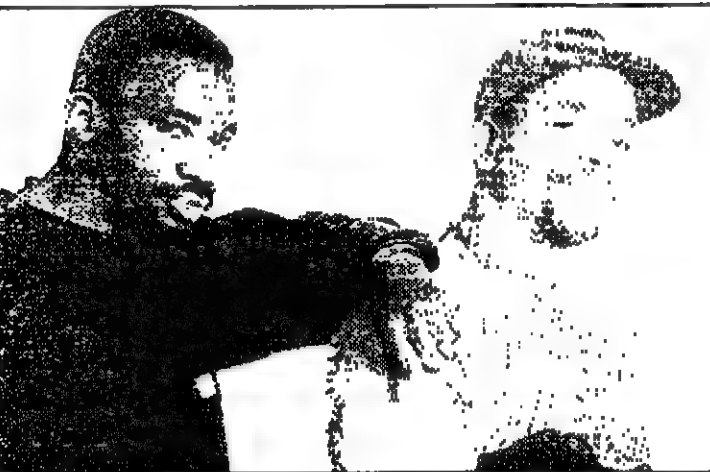
CONTEMPORARY WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS: Fourth annual show of women members of the Association of Photographers working within a commercial environment. Black and white and colour from fashion, advertising and editorial. The Association Gallery, 9-10 Domingo Street, London EC1 (01-608 1441), until Feb 2.

ROCK

DAVID SINCLAIR

SLIDE: Good-looking Scottish young hopefuls with a singer in the Paul Rodgers mould (Bad Company, Free). Tues, Essex University (0206 853211); Wed, Birmingham University (021 472 1841); Thurs, Salford University (061 736 5843); Polytechnic of Wales (0443 408227).

HAVANA 3AM: Ex-Clash bass player Paul Simonon's new group. Something of a post-punk/Latin hybrid according to early accounts.



Ice-T: malevolent bravado with a heart of solid entrepreneurial gold

Although it has been the pedestrian Niggers With Attitude who have capitalized so neatly on the furore surrounding the Los Angeles "gangster rap" scene, it is the more sinister Ice-T who many consider to be the creator of "crime rhyme" and who now presides both as artist and *auteur* over the movement. Rap, which was invented in the Bronx, came late to the West Coast and there seems to have been a degree of over-compensation by some LA rappers to prove themselves as tough as the boys from back east. A teenage life spent on the streets of LA has steeped Ice-T in the folklore of gang violence and petty crime. "I ain't shot anybody but I know people who have" is a favourite boast, while the lyrics on his three albums abound with lurid tales of gratuitous violence, grossly detailed expressions of misogyny and complaints about infringements of his First Amendment right to speak his mind. But he has a heart of solid entrepreneurial gold, and Ice-T has steadily built up his own record company, Rhyme Syndicate (initial signings: Donald D, Divine Styler, Hijaak), for which he has secured a big investment and distribution deal with Epic Records. Wed, Top Rank, Brighton (0273 732627); Thurs, Palace, Bradford (0274 724982); Fri, International 2, Manchester (061 236 2577); Jan 27, Brixton Academy, London SW7 (01-326 1022).

THEATRE

TONY PATRICK

BRITANNICUS: Stan Evans's adaptation of the Racine tragedy, directed by David Fielding, with Paola Dionisotti. Crucible, Sheffield (0742 769922). Previews Thurs eve, Fri mat, opens Fri eve.

BUS STOP: Jerry Hall makes her UK stage debut as Chene (played by Marilyn Monroe in the film of William Inge's play). With Shaun Cassidy, David Healy, Carolyn Jones, Stuart Milligan, Phil Oesterman directs. Transfers directly to the West End. The PTL Barbican, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Previews Thurs, Fri, opens Thurs. Until Feb 17.

DON GIOVANNI: New musical version, by Nick Broadway and Tony Britten, of Mozart's opera, with Mark McGann, Sarah Payne, Terence Hillier. Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London SE10 (01-858 7755). Previews from Fri. Opens Jan 29.

HAVE: British premiere of Hungarian Julius Hay's thriller with political underones. Janice Honeyman directs a cast including Estelle Kohler, Rob Heyland. The PTL Barbican, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Previews from Wed. Opens Jan 30.

JOCK TAMSON'S BARRIE: Black comedy, strictly non-traditional, version of a Burns Supper, featuring 25 actors, dancers and musicians of the Communico company, devised by Gerry Mulgrew and Liz Lochhead. Tramway, Old Transport Museum, Glasgow (041 227 5511). Opens Thurs.

Borderline, London WC2 (01-497 2261), Tues and Wed.

THE ALARM: Rhyt rabble rousers whose campaign on behalf of the Welsh language has not disguised the increasingly American flavour of their music. Tonight, Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 226 4679); Mon, Network, Edinburgh (031 226 7010); Tues, Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606); Wed, Sheffield City Hall (0742 732295); Thurs, St Georges Hall, Bradford (0274 752000).

ERIC CLAPTON: One of our more venerated guitarists, back for what he calls the rock equivalent of the Proms. Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-899 8212) until Feb 10.

OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: New production of Berlioz's *Beatrice and Benedict* by Tim Albery and his Trojans team opens on Thurs at 7.30pm, with Ann Murray and Philip Langridge in the title roles. Mark Elder conducts this, the opera's first professional staging in London. Further performances of revival of Ian Judge's production of *Countess's Faust*, Tues and Fri at 7.30pm; last two chances to see *Hansel and Gretel* tonight and Wed, also at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

SCOTTISH OPERA: Stefanos Lazaridis's new production of Berlioz's *Beatrice and Benedict* is unveiled on Wed at 7.15pm in a challenging double bill with *Oedipus Rex*. Kathryn Harries and Monte Jaffe are conducted by Waghtang Matchavariani in his British opera debut. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234).

JAZZ

FLORA PURIM & AIRTO: One of Fifth Street's regular attractions, the Latin couple are back for a three-week residency. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747), Mon to Sat.

THIRD APPLES & SNAKES JAZZ POETRY FESTIVAL: Main attractions include Annie Whitehead, Jayne Cortez and Denardo (son of Ornette) Coleman. The Tabernacle, London W11 (01-988 8806), Thurs to Sat.

KENNY WHEELER: The ECM trumpeter's big band continues its Arts Council tour. Albert Hall, Nottingham (0602 419741) tonight; Nottingham Theatre, Leicester (0533 530021) tomorrow; Wilde Theatre, Bracknell (0344 484123) Tues; St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 371236) Wed; Philharmonie Hall, Liverpool (051 709 3789) Thurs; Adrenalin South Hall, Birmingham (021 236 3889) Jan 27.

EVIDENCE: Keyboard player Roland Perrin leads the spirited crossover band, mixing jazz, pop and Latin influences. Bass Club, London N1 (01-729 2476), Thurs.

BRIDGE

Most rubber bridge players miss out on the excitement of duplicate, where every deal may be critical and matches may hinge on apparently trivial part-scores or on setting your opponents two tricks rather than one. But it is possible to set up a small duplicate evening without too much fuss.

One way to do it is to play a 32-board team-of-four match. You play 16 deals, which should take about two hours, break to compare scores and have a decent dinner, and then play the second 16 deals afterwards. I recently watched a most dramatic final board between Condé Nast (*Vogue*) and National Magazine Company (*Harpers & Queen*).

Team-of-four. Game all. Board 32. Dealer North.

	W	N	E	S
♠	10	9	8	7
♥	10	9	8	7
♦	10	9	8	7
♣	10	9	8	7

Normally, South would simply raise partner's opening spade bid to four spades, but these were not normal circumstances. North was a genuine card-carrying novice who had been press-ganged into the team at the last moment. He had announced at the outset that the less often he was declarer, the better his side would do. Early catastrophes

BRIDGE

had roundly vindicated his estimation of his skills.

South was prepared to let four spades go undoubled. But when West doubled, on the good principle of doubling the player, not the contract, South felt he had to rescue. If an opponent held four spades, or even five, the hand would just be too difficult for North, and South could envisage a three-trick set, or worse. When West led the spade king against five diamonds doubled, South's gizzard froze. If East was void in spades and West held the club ace, he was going to be three down at least. However, there was nothing for it but to play the ace of spades and lead a small club from dummy. East took his ace and returned a trump, won in hand. Declarer ruffed his small club, and played off all his trumps and the king of clubs. This was the four-card position with West to discard:

	W	N	E	S
♠	10	9	8	7
♥	10	9	8	7
♦	10	9	8	7
♣	10	9	8	7

West was caught in a strip-squeeze. If he threw a heart, declarer would throw a spade and make three heart tricks; if he threw a spade, declarer would have a choice of winning plays. The only way East-West could have beaten the contract after the initial lead was for East to have returned a heart at trick three. This lead, right into dummy's A Q J 5, kills the communication between declarer and dummy. It is one of the classic defences against a threatened squeeze.

One of the quirks of dupli-

cate is that although the hands are dealt at random, very occasionally unscrupulous organizers put in a couple of prepared hands. Here is a case in point, from a teams event, love all, dealer East:

	W	N	E	S
♠	10	9	8	7
♥	10	9	8	7
♦	10	9	8	7
♣	10	9	8	7

Many East-West pairs, and presumably all who thought they were behind in the match, played in seven no trumps with no trouble. But I suspect the arrangement of the minor suit cards was a deliberate piece of nastiness, because the club blockage defeated those who played in seven spades.

One extremely unlucky pair were defeated in six spades. East opened with an ace-identifying two clubs, to which West had to respond two spades. The eventual six spades contract was played by West, which enabled North to defeat it with a diamond lead.

But the oddest result came when the East-West bidding went simply two spades, three spades, four spades. One can only suppose a system misunderstanding here, perhaps West thought they were playing weak twos. Declarer won the opening club lead and then took three rounds of trumps before unblocking the clubs, thus making only 11 tricks. Well, if he was going to play like that, he was right not to bid beyond game...

John Graham

RICHARD MILDENHALL



On Daniels, who is directing *A Clockwork Orange* for the RSC at the Barbican, says he did not find the idea of a stage production of Anthony Burgess's novella intimidating. "But it was daunting. The book hits a raw nerve. It comes to us now through a veil of hysteria, essentially unimpaired, because of the image people have of it almost every day. But the story is a complex cautionary tale of a society which does not cater for young people or allow them to express themselves. It is a fantasy of freedom - an appalling freedom, and a fable of retribution. Alex [played by Phil Daniels, main picture] is at the beginning a kind of Lucifer, let loose in a urban hell. He has no guilt, no qualms and, as he himself says, has to be destroyed. But we respond to him in a strange, ambivalent way, finding him attractive even while we are revolted by some of the things he does. I approached Bono and The Edge of U2 to collaborate with us on the music. I must emphasize that this is a play with music, not a musical. Bono said that the text was itself very musical, and in many places we now have a rhythmic pulse and a melodic line behind the actors' words, almost in rap fashion, but with very contemporary strong textures. Burgess's original does have songs, but we are not using them, although we keep, for example, the Beethoven to which Alex loves to listen. There is an unseen band of four, and a company of 38, drawn from the RSC: an in-house show, not a co-production, showing off both our strength in ensemble and our determination to get in the front line, to take risks." *A Clockwork Orange*, Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Previews from Friday. Opens February 6. In repertory.

GALLERIES

DAVID LEE

THE BRITISH ART SHOW: Works by 40 young artists selected by pundits hoping to spot the incipient trends of the 1990s. The McLellan Galleries, Glasgow (041 331 1854). From Wed.

ROBERT MORRIS: Sculptures 1962-1980 by an American pop and conceptual artist. Runkel-Hus-Williams, London W1 (01-495 7017). From Thurs.

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE: The unveiling of the new and much-awaited re-hanging of the Tate's permanent collection. Tate Gallery, London SW1 (01-821 7128). From Thurs.



On the circle line: Richard Long

Richard Long won the high-prestige Turner Prize last November. In terms of productivity he can have had few competitors for the award, having held more than 100 one-man exhibitions before he was 40. The circle has always been his sculptural emblem. Richard Long's recent work opens today at Arncliffe, Bristol (0272 29919). Another show of Long material starts on Thursday at Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London W1 (01-499 4100), and a further selection of sculptures from the Arts Council's collection is on at Plymouth Arts Centre (0752 660060) until February 10.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Final performances of *Cinderella*, with Maria Almeida today. Fiona Chadwick on Tues. Then *La Fille mal gardée* with Rosalyn Whitten and Stuart Cassidy (Wed), *Winnona* Durante and Errol Pickford (Thurs), *Fiona Chadwick and Stephen Jefferies* (Fri), in each case preceded by the *pas de six* showpiece from *Laurencia*. Covent Garden, London W1 (01-240 1068).

LONDON CITY BALLET: André Prokopy's dance *La Traviata* Tues-Thurs; then a mixed bill with *Graduation Ball*, *Three Dances to Japanese Music* and *Aurora's Wedding* (from *The Sleeping Beauty*) Fri and Sat. New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 384 844).

SURAYA HILAL: Egyptian Raqs Sharid dancer with live musicians in her new programme, *Jewels*. Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (061 273 4504) tonight.

CONCERTS

POPE PIPE DREAMS: Under the title "Pipe Dreams", Anna Pope (flute) and others play Janet Graham's *From Dusk to Dawn*, Kent Kennan's *Night Soliloquy*, Goossens's *Pastorale* and other short pieces. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800), Mon 8pm.

NEW SPICER: Paul Spicer's new Piano Sonata receives its world premiere from Margaret Fingerhut, who also plays Suk's *The Spring Op 22a*, Martin's *Manonettes*, Schubert's *Impromptu D 899*, Chopin's *Andante spianato* and *Grand Polonaise*. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-895 2141), Wed, 7.30pm.

THOMAS/LSC: The LSO is conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas in Richard Strauss's symphonic poems *Don Juan* and *Also sprach Zarathustra*. In between, Barbara Hendricks, soprano, sings Strauss's *Lieder* and Mozart's *Ah, lo prevido* D 272. Barbican, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Thurs, 7.45pm.

CINEMA

GEOFF BROWN

BLACK RAIN (18): Potboiling crime story drenched by director Ridley Scott in a suitably menacing visual atmosphere. Michael Douglas stars as a hardboiled New York cop pursuing a Japanese gangster through Osaka. With Andy Garcia, Ken Takakura. Empire (01-437 1234), from Fri.

PIRAVI: Award-winning Indian film about the agony of an aged father waiting in vain for his arrested student son to return home. A first feature by cameraman Shaji.



Casualties of War: Michael J. Fox gives first aid to a wounded villager

Putting a director like Brian De Palma in charge of a Vietnam drama like *Casualties of War* was a brilliant, if dangerous move. De Palma's ability to convey perverse behaviour and the visceral impact of violence is second to none in the current American cinema; yet his gifts can carry him to irresponsible extremes. In the event, De Palma behaved comparatively carefully, although Vietnam veteran organizations have still voiced strong complaints about the film's depiction of the American forces: one notable complaint they were made to seem "crazed, warped creatures". For material, De Palma drew on Daniel Lang's sobering account, first published in the *New Yorker* magazine, of the kidnapping, rape and murder of a Vietnamese girl by an army platoon in 1966. In some further ideal casting, Sean Penn, cinema's bad boy, was chosen to play the hideous affair's prime mover, while Michael J. Fox's eager-beaver innocence perfectly matched the role of the single platoon member who refuses to participate. The scriptwriter, too, was picked with care: David Rabe, a Vietnam veteran himself, had already explored his painful memories in the play *Streamers* (filmed by Robert Altman in 1983). Warner West End (01-439 0791), from Friday, certificate 18.

CHESS

The Foreign & Colonial Grandmaster tournament at Hastings was a particularly close run affair this year. Every player was of the front rank and the final outcome was not determined until the very last round.

One of the most stirring games was Jon Speelman's demolition of the top-ranked US Grandmaster Boris Gulko. White: Jon Speelman; Black: Boris Gulko. Hastings 1990. Sicilian Defence.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Bc5 4. Bxc6 Nxc6 5. d4 d5 6. Nxd5 Nxd5 7. Nf3 Nc6 8. Bb5 Bc5 9. Bxc6 Nxc6 10. d4 d5 11. Nf3 Nc6 12. Bb5 Bc5 13. Bxc6 Nxc6 14. d4 d5 15. Nf3 Nc6 16. Bb5 Bc5 17. Bxc6 Nxc6 18. d4 d5 19. Nf3 Nc6 20. Bb5 Bc5 21. Bxc6 Nxc6 22. d4 d5 23. Nf3 Nc6 24. Bb5 Bc5 25. Bxc6 Nxc6 26. d4 d5 27. Nf3 Nc6 28. Bb5 Bc5 29. Bxc6 Nxc6 30. d4 d5 31. Nf3 Nc6 32. Bb5 Bc5 33. Bxc6 Nxc6 34. d4 d5 35. Nf3 Nc6 36. Bb5 Bc5 37. Bxc6 Nxc6 38. d4 d5 39. Nf3 Nc6 40. Bb5 Bc5 41. Bxc6 Nxc6 42. d4 d5 43. Nf3 Nc6 44. Bb5 Bc5 45. Bxc6 Nxc6 46. d4 d5 47. Nf3 Nc6 48. Bb5 Bc5 49. Bxc6 Nxc6 50. d4 d5 51. Nf3 Nc6 52. Bb5 Bc5 53. Bxc6 Nxc6 54. d4 d5 55. Nf3 Nc6 56. Bb5 Bc5 57. Bxc6 Nxc6 58. d4 d5 59. Nf3 Nc6 60. Bb5 Bc5 61. Bxc6 Nxc6 62. d4 d5 63. Nf3 Nc6 64. Bb5 Bc5 65. Bxc6 Nxc6 66. d4 d5 67. Nf3 Nc6 68. Bb5 Bc5 69. Bxc6 Nxc6 70. d4 d5 71. Nf3 Nc6 72. Bb5 Bc5 73. Bxc6 Nxc6 74. d4 d5 75. Nf3 Nc6 76. Bb5 Bc5 77. Bxc6 Nxc6 78. d4 d5 79. Nf3 Nc6 80. Bb5 Bc5 81. Bxc6 Nxc6 82. d4 d5 83. Nf3 Nc6 84. Bb5 Bc5 85. Bxc6 Nxc6 86. d4 d5 87. Nf3 Nc6 88. Bb5 Bc5 89. Bxc6 Nxc6 90. d4 d5 91. Nf3 Nc6 92. Bb5 Bc5 93. Bxc6 Nxc6 94. d4 d5 95. Nf3 Nc6 96. Bb5 Bc5 97. Bxc6 Nxc6 98. d4 d5 99. Nf3 Nc6 100. Bb5 Bc5 101. Bxc6 Nxc6 102. d4 d5 103. Nf3 Nc6 104. Bb5 Bc5 105. Bxc6 Nxc6 106. d4 d5 107. Nf3 Nc6 108. Bb5 Bc5 109. Bxc6 Nxc6 110. d4 d5 111. Nf3 Nc6 112. Bb5 Bc5 113. Bxc6 Nxc6 114. d4 d5 115. Nf3 Nc6 116. Bb5 Bc5 117. Bxc6 Nxc6 118. d4 d5 119. Nf3 Nc6 120. Bb5 Bc5 121. Bxc6 Nxc6 122. d4 d5 123. Nf3 Nc6 124. Bb5 Bc5 125. Bxc6 Nxc6 126. d4 d5 127. Nf3 Nc6 128. Bb5 Bc5 129. Bxc6 Nxc6 130. d4 d5 131. Nf3 Nc6 132. Bb5 Bc5 133. Bxc6 Nxc6 134. d4 d5 135. Nf3 Nc6 136. Bb5 Bc5 137. Bxc6 Nxc6 138. d4 d5 139. Nf3 Nc6 140. Bb5 Bc5 141. Bxc6 Nxc6 142. d4 d5 143. Nf3 Nc6 144. Bb5 Bc5 145. Bxc6 Nxc6 146. d4 d5 147. Nf3 Nc6 148. Bb5 Bc5 149. Bxc6 Nxc6 150. d4 d5 151. Nf3 Nc6 152. Bb5 Bc5 153. Bxc6 Nxc6 154. d4 d5 155. Nf3 Nc6 156. Bb5 Bc5 157. Bxc6 Nxc6 158. d4 d5 159. Nf3 Nc6 160. Bb5 Bc5 161. Bxc6 Nxc6 162. d4 d5 163. Nf3 Nc6 164. Bb5 Bc5 165. Bxc6 Nxc6 166. d4 d5 167. Nf3 Nc6 168. Bb5 Bc5 169. Bxc6 Nxc6 170. d4 d5 171. Nf3 Nc6 172. Bb5 Bc5 173. Bxc6 Nxc6 174. d4 d5 175. Nf3 Nc6 176. Bb5 Bc5 177. Bxc6 Nxc6 178. d4 d5 179. Nf3 Nc6 180. Bb5 Bc5 181. Bxc6 Nxc6 182. d4 d5 183. Nf3 Nc6 184. Bb5 Bc5 185. Bxc6 Nxc6 186. d4 d5 187. Nf3 Nc6 188. Bb5 Bc5 189. Bxc6 Nxc6 190. d4 d5 191. Nf3 Nc6 192. Bb5 Bc5 193. Bxc6 Nxc6 194. d4 d5 195. Nf3 Nc6 196. Bb5 Bc5 197. Bxc6 Nxc6 198. d4 d5 199. Nf3 Nc6 200. Bb5 Bc5 201. Bxc6 Nxc6 202. d4 d5 203. Nf3 Nc6 204. Bb5 Bc5 205. Bxc6 Nxc6 206. d4 d5 207. Nf3 Nc6 208. Bb5 Bc5 209. Bxc6 Nxc6 210. d4 d5 211. Nf3 Nc6 212. Bb5 Bc5 213. Bxc6 Nxc6 214. d4 d5 215. Nf3 Nc6 216. Bb5 Bc5 217. Bxc6 Nxc6 218. d4 d5 219. Nf3 Nc6 220. Bb5 Bc5 221. Bxc6 Nxc6 222. d4 d5 223. Nf3 Nc6 224. Bb5 Bc5 225. Bxc6 Nxc6 226. d4 d5 227. Nf3 Nc6 228. Bb5 Bc5 229. Bxc6 Nxc6 230. d4 d5 231. Nf3 Nc6 232. Bb5 Bc5 233. Bxc6 Nxc6 234. d4 d5 235. Nf3 Nc6 236. Bb5 Bc5 237. Bxc6 Nxc6 238. d4 d5 239. Nf3 Nc6 240. Bb5 Bc5 241. Bxc6 Nxc6 242. d4 d5 243. Nf3 Nc6 244. Bb5 Bc5 245. Bxc6 Nxc6 246. d4 d5 247. Nf3 Nc6 248. Bb5 Bc5 249. Bxc6 Nxc6 250. d4 d5 251. Nf3 Nc6 252. Bb5 Bc5 253. Bxc6 Nxc6 254. d4 d5 255. Nf3 Nc6 256. Bb5 Bc5 257. Bxc6 Nxc6 258. d4 d5 259. Nf3 Nc6 260. Bb5 Bc5 261. Bxc6 Nxc6 262. d4 d5 263. Nf3 Nc6 264. Bb5 Bc5 265. Bxc6 Nxc6 266. d4 d5 267. Nf3 Nc6 268. Bb5 Bc5 269. Bxc6 Nxc6 270. d4 d5 271. Nf3 Nc6 272. Bb5 Bc5 273. Bxc6 Nxc6 274. d4 d5 275. Nf3 Nc6 276. Bb5 Bc5 277. Bxc6 Nxc6 278. d4 d5 279. Nf3 Nc6 280. Bb5 Bc5 281. Bxc6 Nxc6 282. d4 d5 283. Nf3 Nc6 284. Bb5 Bc5 285. Bxc6 Nxc6 286. d4 d5 287. Nf3 Nc6 288. Bb5 Bc5 289. Bxc6 Nxc6 290. d4 d5 291. Nf3 Nc6 292. Bb5 Bc5 293. Bxc6 Nxc6 294. d4 d5 295. Nf3 Nc6 296. Bb5 Bc5 297. Bxc6 Nxc6 298. d4 d5 299. Nf3 Nc6 300. Bb5 Bc5 301. Bxc6 Nxc6 302. d4 d5 303. Nf3 Nc6 304. Bb5 Bc5 305. Bxc6 Nxc6 306. d4 d5 307. Nf3 Nc6 308. Bb5 Bc5 309. Bxc6 Nxc6 310. d4 d5 311. Nf3 Nc6 312. Bb5 Bc5 313. Bxc6 Nxc6 314. d4 d5 315. Nf3 Nc6 316. Bb5 Bc5 317. Bxc6 Nxc6 318. d4 d5 319. Nf3 Nc6 320. Bb5 Bc5 321. Bxc6 Nxc6 322. d4 d5 323. Nf3 Nc6 324. Bb5 Bc5 325. Bxc6 Nxc6 326. d4 d5 327. Nf3 Nc6 328. Bb5 Bc5 329. Bxc6 Nxc6 330. d4 d5 331. Nf3 Nc6 332. Bb5 Bc5 333. Bxc6 Nxc6 334. d4 d5 335. Nf3 Nc6 336. Bb5 Bc5 337. Bxc6 Nxc6 338. d4 d5 339. Nf3 Nc6 340. Bb5 Bc5 341. Bxc6 Nxc6 342. d4 d5 343. Nf3 Nc6 344. Bb5 Bc5 345. Bxc6 Nxc6 346. d4 d5 347. Nf3 Nc6 348. Bb5 Bc5 349. Bxc6 Nxc6 350. d4 d5 351. Nf3 Nc6 352. Bb5 Bc5 353. Bxc6 Nxc6 354. d4 d5 355. Nf3 Nc6 356. Bb5 Bc5 357. Bxc6 Nxc6 358. d4 d5 359. Nf3 Nc6 360. Bb5 Bc5 361. Bxc6 Nxc6 362. d4 d5 363. Nf3 Nc6 364. Bb5 Bc5 365. Bxc6 Nxc6 366. d4 d5 367. Nf3 Nc6 368. Bb5 Bc5 369. Bxc6 Nxc6 370. d4 d5 371. Nf3 Nc6 372. Bb5 Bc5 373. Bxc6 Nxc6 374. d4 d5 375. Nf3 Nc6 376. Bb5 Bc5 377. Bxc6 Nxc6 378. d4 d5 379. Nf3 Nc6 380. Bb5 Bc5 381. Bxc6 Nxc6 382. d4 d5 383. Nf3 Nc6 384. Bb5 Bc5 385. Bxc6 Nxc6 386. d4 d5 387. Nf3 Nc6

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SPORT TRAVEL & LEISURE

SATURDAY JANUARY 20 1990

Violent demonstration puts tour in doubt

From Richard Streever
Johannesburg

Two hours before Mike Gattling's team of English cricketers had even arrived yesterday, the South African police used Alsatian dogs and tear gas to disperse about 150 anti-apartheid demonstrators outside the main building at Jan Smuts airport outside Johannesburg. This early violence of the sort that the South African cricket authorities had dreaded — and the protesters had hoped to avoid — must surely have put the future of the tour in immediate jeopardy.

Mrs Winnie Mandela, the wife of the jailed African National Congress leader, was among the protesters who arrived in buses at the airport.

Many carried banners, which included slogans such as "Mike Gattling the Judas Iscariot of English Cricket". As they began a march, the police herded them into an enclosed area and then, according to one police official, invoked an emergency law prohibiting demonstrations within 500 metres of an airport building.

The protesters were given one minute to disperse, but almost immediately, eye witnesses said, the tear gas sprays were fired at them and they were harassed by the dogs and hit by batons. The news of 10 arrests and several injuries quickly circulated around the airport, which swarmed with police.

First reaction from South African Cricket Union

(SACU) officials was that the tour would continue and they maintained this attitude as the day progressed. There is no doubt, however, that the violence has left cricket officials shaken. Even security officials suspect that something went badly wrong with how they handled the demonstration.

Immediately, several South African sports journalists waiting for the English cricket team's press conference said that the whole case of South Africa's claims to return to international sport had been irretrievably dented. They believed cricket's attempts to become fully multi-racial had been put back several years.

Whether the English team continues its tour after such a beginning remains to be seen. If this is going to be the

pattern in coming weeks, the English cricketers themselves will presumably become sickened and will be the first to want to call a halt.

Dr Ali Bacher, SACU's managing director, and other senior officials, missed the violence because it was known that the English team's jet would be arriving three hours later. When Dr Bacher was eventually questioned, he confirmed that if SACU could establish that the demonstrators had been protesting peacefully he would lodge the strongest possible objection to the authorities about the police action.

"We are having on-going meetings with the police about security and this unhappy affair must be dealt with as soon as possible," he said.

"We have always acknowledged the right of people to demonstrate peacefully."

Dr Bacher was later asked his own feelings about the physical confrontation and with surprising frankness replied: "I anticipated it. I am not deterred nor distressed. I never anticipated that on day one Mike Gattling would walk off the plane and there would not be problems of this nature."

Twenty demonstrators finished with injuries, which included open wounds from dog bites, according to Irish Naidoo, the general secretary of the National Sports Congress (NSC), the tour's main opponent. Late last night the NSC planned to hold a post mortem about events at the airport.

Naidoo expected to get agreement for himself to seek a meeting with Gattling. "Clearly the state and police are not prepared to let people demonstrate even peacefully. Are the English cricketers prepared to continue the tour when people are getting beaten up?"

At a crowded and brief press conference on arrival, Gattling was spared any lengthy cross-examination about his own feelings on the violence by the actions of a SACU media liaison officer. The official twice refused to allow reporters to put questions when they began with references to demonstrators being passed and bitten by dogs. The English cricketers listened impassively, though the players looked tired and tense after

their overnight flight, which had been delayed by bomb scares.

Asked about the demonstration and the violence, Gattling replied: "We were not here at the time so obviously I cannot say very much. I understood that people could demonstrate peacefully and obviously I would be unhappy if it was peaceful and it was still dispersed in such a way."

Gattling was then asked if the tour was worthwhile and if its future should be reconsidered. He said: "I hope there won't be any violence". The cricketers quickly left for their hotel, which had been switched overnight, ostensibly because it was better, but it is also more easily protected than the original, which could also have been a factor.



Norman is cleared after inquiry into pay claims

By John Goodbody

Steve Overt did receive a telephone call offering him unsanctioned money to run against Sebastian Coe over 1,500 metres in the 1989 Commonwealth Games trials, but the investigators are not satisfied that Andy Norman, the promotions officer of British athletics, made the call.

That is the conclusion of the two-man independent inquiry set up by the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) into the controversy in Birmingham last August when the former Olympic 800 metres champion broke down in tears while being interviewed on television.

Overt has alleged that Norman had phoned him the previous Tuesday when he was hesitating whether to run against his great rival and said that there was "£40,000 in it" for the two athletes to meet for the first time on a British track. Norman has always denied making the call.

The 60-page report gives a fascinating picture of the workings of top-class British athletics and could be a best seller if it were sold. It concludes: "We are unable positively to establish the identity of the person who made the telephone call. While the most probable candidate for the maker of the call must be Andy Norman, we are not so satisfied that it must have been made by him so as to enable us to make a firm finding to that effect."

Tony Ward, the spokesman for British Athletics, said yesterday: "It is a Hercule Poirot novel without the denouement. Poirot and Miss Marple combined would have had

difficulty in solving this one." He stressed that Norman, who was Overt's best man at his wedding but subsequently became estranged from the former world record-holder, "retains the full support and confidence of the AAA," adding that although many people have helped in the 1980s, Andy "was the architect who brought Britain to the forefront of the sport."

Ward termed the result of the inquiry, conducted by David Pickup, the director general of the Sports Council, and Robert Reid QC as a "0-0 draw." Both investigators declined to comment further yesterday on their findings.

With meticulous work the pair examined records of phone calls and interviewed 36 people before reaching their conclusion. They include some of the biggest names in the sport as they attempted to reach a definite conclusion as to who called Overt either before or after a press conference on August 8.

Several theories have been considered by the investigators, including the possibility of a hoax caller impersonating Norman's voice. Ward said: "There is an imponderable there. It is an enormous and difficult thing to prove." He denied a suggestion that there had been a "whitewash" because the two members of the inquiry were "totally independent of athletics." Ward thought that to continue the investigation would have been a "waste of energy for us. We have got to get on with the job of running athletics."

The findings of the inquiry will now go to the AAA's own investigation to review the practice and procedures of subventions and other payments to athletes and officials. This is expected to be published in the spring. It follows several controversies, including the stealing from Norman's hotel bedroom in Crystal Palace of about £25,000 in US dollars belonging to the AAA and being used to pay athletes for a meeting held in Nice.

In athletics, appearance money can be earned for a competitor's trust fund by taking part in certain selected meetings. What made the Overt incident controversial was that the AAA Championships and Commonwealth Games trials were not an event when money was sanctioned and also because of the fame of the individuals involved.

In the race, Coe finished first and qualified for the Games, which begin in Auckland next week, while Overt, clearly running below form and upset by the controversy, was ninth.

The two-man investigation also made several recommendations, including that the promotions officer (Norman) should be specifically debarred from acting as an agent (e.g. by negotiating competition entries or fees) either directly or indirectly (e.g. through company connections) for any athlete at home or overseas.

The report points out to the AAA that the terms under which Norman had been engaged by the Association, and the style of operation adopted by him in the past and apparently condoned by the AAA, had led to an understandable ambiguity as to how far Norman reasonably believed that "his powers of discretion could be stretched."

"I'm pleased the inquiry admits I was telling the truth when I said I had been offered money," Overt said yesterday. It does not confirm who made the telephone call with the offer of money, but I know who phoned me — it was Andy Norman."

Norman, who was in Australia, could not be reached for comment yesterday.



Overt, left, maintains that Norman, right, made the call

Portland victims decide to retire

By George Rae

Paul Cook and Ian Johnson, two of the jockeys involved in the Portland Handicap pile-up at Doncaster last September, are to retire. Both cite injuries received during the race as the reason for terminating their riding careers.

Cook, who rode the faller, Madrac, fractured a foot, ribs and collar-bone, while Johnson, who was brought down on Pendor Dancer, injured his back. Neither has ridden since.

The jockeys yesterday issued statements through their solicitor, Matthew McCloy. "My riding career has been brought to a premature end as a result of the accident in the Portland Handicap last year," Cook said.

Johnson, who throughout his career has been dogged by injury, said: "I have been advised by my doctors that I must give up riding as a result of the injuries received in the Portland. It is a matter of great regret to me and I shall

be speaking to Dr Allen at the Jockey Club to seek his views." McCloy added that, although the decisions were known before Christmas, he had advised that the announcements be delayed until investigations into the accident had been completed by the Jockey Club and himself. The Jockey Club report is published today.

The Newbury-based solicitor confirmed that he is to pursue legal action on behalf of Cook, Johnson, and Ray Cochrane, injured in the Portland, and Billy Newnes, who was unhurt in a separate fall two days later. McCloy is also representing Bernard Hampson and Liam Codd, the owner and trainer of Madrac.

"I shall be writing to Doncaster over the next few weeks setting out our position and inviting their reaction," McCloy said.

Jockey Club report, Page 52

180 begin Monte Carlo rally

Monte Carlo (AP) — The 58th Monte Carlo rally opened yesterday with 180 drivers from five starting points around Europe converging on the tiny Riviera principality. The favourites include Massimo Biasion of Italy, with Lancia, the two-time winner of the rally, and Ari Vatanen, of Finland, in a Mitsubishi, who won the Paris to Dakar rally this week.

The competitors began from Sestriere, Italy: Lausanne, Switzerland; Barcelona, Spain; Reims, France; and Bad Homburg, West Germany. The race begins in earnest tomorrow, in front of the Casino de Monte Carlo.

The rally covers more than 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles). It ends with an all-night drive to the Thursday morning finish at the Casino.

Weather on the French Riviera has been sunny, with temperatures about 18°C (mid-60s). No snow is forecast.

Underwood's class wickedly neglected

Top wing wants history repeat

By Peter Bills

If any player in the England dressing room at Twickenham today is bursting to release long, stored-up, ability, then that man has to be Rory Underwood.

As he prepares for the opening five nations' championship match against Ireland, Underwood must think back to the corresponding match two years ago. Then, he signalled a rare try for England by launching a most extravagant dive over the line. That single act betrayed long years of frustration on England's wing.

Underwood and his colleagues hope history is about to repeat itself. "It has not escaped our notice that it was exactly 10 years ago that England did the grand slam, and they did it with an identical programme of matches," Underwood said.

If England are to fulfil their rarely-expressed potential, then they must find ways of bringing the Leicester wing into play. Already, they may have to accept the harsh truth that they have largely wasted the best years of Underwood.

He remembers five nations' matches when he did not receive a single pass in the entire game. "In those days, the backs would do a few moves and then the forwards did some themselves," he said. "What was so frustrating was after games when I had not touched the ball and we had lost. You could only hope it would be better next time."

The realism which resides within Underwood, an RAF officer, is revealed by his assessment of the championship games: "Winning must be the primary goal," he said. "It has to be No. 1. If you seek only enjoyment from your rugby, you represent the Extra Bs. But the way England are starting to play, it is likely to be enjoyable as well as winning rugby. You can get both."

"Our preparations for this championship could not have been better. This side is ready to win a grand slam. It is well within its means. But we have stumbled at the first hurdle here, so we have to make sure we perform and win the first game. Perhaps the problem with the Englishman is that he does not have the killer instinct."

That Underwood, who wins his 34th cap today, has for years had a predatory nature, without being able to demonstrate it properly, has been a source of nagging frustration. His tries in the match against Ireland two years ago seemed to break the pattern, but there remains much work for those inside him to do if his best is truly to be witnessed.

He began his international career in this same match, against Ireland, at Twickenham, back in 1984. His first try in the championship came in the next match, the 32-18 England defeat in Paris. He had announced himself with an explosive burst of pace, which has since been too often wickedly neglected.



Sole possession: Underwood jealously clutches the ball during England training yesterday

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Simon Barnes's Sporting Diary, Page 10

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The Times previews the opening of the five nations' rugby union championship

Lightly lies mantle of responsibility

By Gerald Davies

Back in 1902 the Welsh team contained two players, Teddy Morgan and David Jones, wing and second row respectively, who came from Aberdare. They were there for the famous victory against the All Blacks three years later, too. But it has taken another 84 years for a couple of players together from the small town to play again for Wales. Aberdare, like neighbouring Merthyr Tydfil, is better known for its football than rugby. The two Davids, Young and Evans, hail from there. While Young will form part of the hidden ballast of the scrum, Evans emerges, from a possible choice of six, and after three caps in the centre, to inherit the dashing mantle of the stand-off half. Evans is now the fifth in a year to

occupy what all Wales considers the most illustrious, almost hallowed, certainly the most argued over, position in the Welsh team. The responsibility, however, rests easily on Evans's shoulders, and with a degree from University College, Swansea, in the science of management, he could be said, apart from his practical qualification, to be also academically qualified for the position. "I am happier when I am able to manage things on the field. I like to be in control," he says. "I don't mind where I play for Wales, but if I had to choose it would be at stand-off half. I like calling the shots."

Although born in Wootton Bassett, where his father was a teacher, his family had, within a year, gone to live in Aberdare. He attended a comprehensive school in a town where he first played in the position. "The No. 10 jersey was given to me then and, I suppose, like all children, whatever first jersey you're given is the one you want to stick with after that. At any rate, it's the one in which I feel natural, easy and confident."

He was the Welsh schools' stand-off half in 1984 when they lost to the English team captained by Will Carling. However, Evans scored 16 points in the 20-0 victory against France. The 28-0 victory during that season was his partner on Saturday, Robert Jones. But they had played together before that in a curtain-raiser seven-a-side tournament in 1981 before the John Player Cup final at Twickenham. They have not been coupled together since. After Swansea, Evans went

up to Oxford University for a year. He retains his contacts there and was pleased earlier this week to learn that his friend, Mark Egan, had been chosen captain next season. No one mentor sticks out as a major influence on his rugby. "I've had lots of advice," he says. "And have taken little bits from here and there. But then I've made up my own mind. I was a great admirer of Gareth Davies at Cardiff. He was a marvellous tactician and a beautiful kicker of the ball. But then I also enjoy the instinctive footballing abilities of Mark King. He is good to play with. He has this marvellous way of making time for himself on the field. I enjoy kicking the ball, it's part of the game, but I prefer running with it."

Ring and Evans have already shown for Cardiff a telepathic rapport. A back pass here, a flip, finger-tip pass there, with each responding to the other's whim. Evans, along with his centre, understands how with such play they can so often skate on very thin ice. Neither would have it any other way. To talk to Evans is to talk to an enthusiast. He is an optimist of which kind, when it comes to rugby, there are so very few on the ground in Wales. He is a smiler to boot which is yet another blessing in these days of the sportsman's stern and furrowed look. Both half backs seem so tender-aged and clean scrubbed, they might just be in the school choir on the way to evensong, which will be in such contrast to the garbled features of the French pack bearing down on them. Many a mother's heart is sure to



Young: hidden ballast

England attempt to bury the past and build for the future

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

A glance at the list of five nations' championship winners over the last 30 years, which is tabulated on this page, is an indication of the perils awaiting those who prophesy a bright future for England. One outright win, and a share in the quintuple season of 1973, adds up to nothing more than a fierce argument that the country's natural resource — overwhelming playing strength — has been wasted. For many seasons, representatives of the other home countries — Finlay Calder, last summer's British Isles captain, was the latest last month — have argued that, if England ever get their act together, they have the capacity to beat anyone in the world.

Changes in the domestic playing structure and team management made over the last three years may not yet amount to the necessary volte-face, but it has helped increase the efficiency of the players. Efficiency is not necessarily the most attractive of qualities but, if it produces the successes which, all too often, have slipped through English fingers, a long-suffering public will be happy.

This afternoon's Save and Prosper international against Ireland at Twickenham should prove an admirable stage where England can display their virtues of efficiency, of experience and — we should not, I suppose, be afraid to say so — of natural ability. Their XV comprises a powerful mixture of players blessed with talent and others who have worked to make it so. In the back division, for instance, Underwood, Carling and Guscott have been granted formidable gifts of pace, deceptive running and strength. Hill and Hodgkinson have worked hard to make themselves international players, by endless training to perfect the scrum half's skills or adapting from stand-off half to full back.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

LAST SEASON'S TABLE									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
France	4	3	0	1	75	27	5		
England	4	2	1	1	48	27	5		
Scotland	4	2	1	1	75	58	5		
Ireland	4	1	0	3	94	52	2		
Wales	4	1	0	3	44	82	2		

1980 FIXTURES: Today: England v Ireland (Twickenham); Wales v France (Cardiff); February 3: Ireland v Scotland (Lansdowne Road); France v England (Parc des Princes); 17: England v Wales (Twickenham); Scotland v France (Murrayfield); March 3: Wales v Scotland (Cardiff); France v Ireland (Parc des Princes); 17: Scotland v England (Murrayfield); 24: Ireland v Wales (Lansdowne Road).

CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS, 1970-89

Year	Winners	Year	Winners	Year	Winners
1970: France and Wales	1971: Wales	1972: France	1973: France	1974: France	1975: France
1976: France	1977: France	1978: France	1979: France	1980: France	1981: France
1982: France	1983: France	1984: France	1985: France	1986: France	1987: France
1988: France	1989: France	1990: France	1991: France	1992: France	1993: France

All this does not, in itself, make the English back division the greatest thing, as Andy Ripley used to say, since sliced bread. Guscott has to prove to himself and his colleagues that he can exist in the frenetic atmosphere of the five nations; Carling must show he is there of right ahead of the unlucky Halliday. But it is a beginning, with a powerful ally in a pack comprising three of the tight forwards who made the Lions so formidable in Australia, and two — Probyn and Egerton — who, by their play for the four home unions XV against France in Paris last October, suggested that they would not have let down the touring side had they been chosen last year.

It is those forwards who should dominate the game. The Irish have a new cap, Halpin, at tight-head prop opposed to the vastly experienced Rendell, and a tight head, Fitzgerald, on the loose-head side against the awkward Probyn. Ackford, Dooley, Skinner and Egerton should ensure a good tally of lineout ball, and Winterbottom, aware of the proximity in the rankings of Robinson and Rees, will need no motivation whatsoever.

Hang on, though. What about the 15 fellows in green on the other side? The one certainty about Ireland is that they are not just here to make up the numbers. They will compete ferociously for ball on the ground, and Ahern and Russell will doubtless test England's defensive triangle of full back and wings with a mixture of tactical kicking.

Irwin will be itching to get among the English midfield and Mullin's finishing in a broken field is universally acknowledged, but it is hard not to feel that Ireland have left one of their best weapons on the bench. Smith, the Oxford University stand-off half, is outstanding now relieved of the domestic duties of captaincy which made him appear so careworn before Christmas. If he was worth his place against New Zealand last November, he is certainly worth it at Twickenham, where he has played twice in university matches.

However, it will matter little who Ireland have behind the scrum if their forwards are on limited rations, and everything suggests they will be. Their one forward of world class is Matthews, and he has two colleagues of considerable potential alongside him in Francis and Mannion, even if Francis is there only because of injury to Lenihan.

Their is the potential which shows to best effect in a loose game where there is, roughly, equality at forward. The presence of a French referee, Patrick Robin, should encourage fluidity, though England notoriously prosper on a more structured approach. England know they can reduce the prospect of Francis or Mannion galloping into them by tying them up in rolling mauls and leaving Hill and Andrew to direct affairs.

It is an important day for Hill, his second coming, as it were, after the first was blighted by events at Cardiff in 1987. His ambition is no less after nearly three years of disappointment, but his temperament and strategic approach are much improved. "I am now the servant of the backs again rather than their master," he says.

"When I first began top-level rugby, I was there to give the ball to John Horton. Then Bath developed a style which meant that I joined in with the forwards' driving game more, and that spilled over when I first played for England. Now, Bath are insisting that the backs see more of the ball. That is how I am playing it."

Egerton under pressure in the void left by Richards

By David Hands

Some very good players have never represented their country because they happened to be born at the wrong time and their career coincided with that of another outstanding performer. In that respect, David Egerton has been lucky to have collected five caps during a period when it appeared that Dean Richards's formidable bulk would occupy the England No. 8 shirt for the foreseeable future.

Now Richards is laid off for the season with a damaged shoulder and Egerton has the chance to demonstrate the skills, which in 1986 placed him alongside the Leicester man as England's first-choice No. 8, through the various contenders for the place vacated two years earlier by the long-serving John Scott.

It is a prospect which leaves Egerton, now 23, slightly uneasy. "You get disappointed if you are dropped, but you get over it and when you are on the bench it's easier to relax. Now I'm in the firing line I'm not as jolly as I might be. I feel under pressure to hold my place because there are a lot of good players around. "I'm thrilled to be in and I want to play a good game. But I want to enjoy it too, for what it is, prove I can withstand the

pressure of a five nations' game, prove myself to Geoff Cooke (the team manager) and Roger [Utley, the coach]. Even so, a sense of humour cannot be buried. "I'm worried about the lack of diversity in my caps — two against Australia, two against France, two against Fiji, now two against Ireland."

Egerton, born in Planer and educated at Salisbury and Loughborough, has little left to prove to the supporters of Bath, where he has been part of the scenery for five years. But, despite his caps, he has yet to play in the five nations' championship and he has to fill a void made all the emptier by Richards's outstanding form at home and in Australia with the British Lions last year.

He has, though, an excellent rapport with the man he replaces. During England's tour to Australia in 1988, he roomed with Richards, and while the team acclimatised at McKay, the two of them took to early-morning swimming and canoeing together, returning in time for breakfast. Richards has made sure to wish him good fortune against the Irish.

"I have got to try and play my own game. It would be silly to try

and play the same way as Dean. Roger has suggested different things, which I've taken on board and will try and build into my game. There is a hole, but I have to fill it in my way. "I'm a great believer in the New Zealand game which insists that you get over the gap, even if it's only a foot, so that you give your side a target. They force second-phase ball and disrupt the defence. I'm not a raging bull, but I can get to most places, even if it's a different way to Dean."

"After Dean justified his selection ahead of me four years ago I was disappointed but tended to accept it. Since then I think my decision-making has improved and I have the confidence which comes with maturity. I think I stay on my feet better. What is harder is training, but I'm stronger now and the technique changes slightly."

"I can't change direction as quickly as Andy Robinson: I can't run through people like John Hall, but providing I understand what they can do, I can be in the right place at the right time to do what I can to help them. I can act as a linchpin," he said.

Referee: P A Howard (England)

TODAY'S TEAMS AT CARDIFF

Wales		France	
P H Thorburn (Hooker)	15	J-S Lafont (Rising Club de France)	15
M H Tiddy (Rugby)	14	M Andrieu (Nantes)	14
M G Ring (Cardiff)	13	P Sella (Agen)	13
A Emyr (Swansea)	12	D Charvet (Toulouse)	12
D W Evans (Cardiff)	11	P Lagisquet (Bayonne)	11
R N Jones (Swansea)	10	D Camberme (Bordeaux)	10
M Griffiths (Cardiff)	9	P Barbizier (Agen)	9
K H Phillips (Notts)	8	P Ondarts (Biarritz)	8
D Young (Cardiff)	7	L Armary (Toulon)	7
P T Davies (Llanelli)	6	J-P Garuat (Toulon)	6
A G Allen (Newcastle)	5	E Champ (Toulon)	5
K Moseley (Pontypool)	4	T Devergie (Nantes)	4
G Jones (Llanelli)	3	D Erbani (Agen)	3
M A Jones (Notts)	2	L Rodriguez (Dax)	2
	1	O Roumat (Dax)	1

REPLACEMENTS: 16 G Davies (Llanelli), 17 A Clement (Swansea), 18 A H Booth (Cardiff), 19 G Jenkins (Pontypool), 20 H Williams-Jones (South Wales Police), 21 M Pringle (Llanelli).

Waterloo get a pat on back from Quintenton

Waterloo, who are rebuilding their side, were much encouraged to receive a letter from Roger Quintenton congratulating them on their performance in the 22-12 loss at Coventry in the league last week — which had helped make his task as referee easier — and on the manner in which they accepted defeat (David Hands writes).

Quintenton was an international panel referee for 13 years. "We have had so much criticism both of our play and

our disciplinary record this season that to have someone of Roger's standing taking the trouble to say how well we played was a tremendous filip," Ian Fazey, the club spokesman, said.

Waterloo's local derby with Liverpool St Helens today is part of an attenuated club programme this weekend which now includes a game at Old Deer Park tomorrow between London Welsh and Public School Wanderers.

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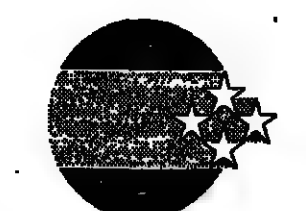
McKean's hunger spells a warning to farewell for Coe

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent
Auckland

Tom McKean admits to being a reluctant pacemaker. This time, though, he may have given the others too much of a start. While Sebastian Coe and the Kenyans have been allowed to run on ahead in their preparations for the Commonwealth Games 800 metres, McKean's mind has been wandering.

"I said last year that my main aim for this year would be the European championships, and I have also used my build-up for the Commonwealth Games as an experiment for running indoors next year. It's a strange feeling to be running so fast in the middle of winter," he said. But, as he prepared for his first race today since his World Cup win in September, McKean's mind started racing again.

"I came off the World Cup on a high, took a bit of a break and picked up the training gradually from October and November," he said. By that



time, the Kenyans were set for their trials and Coe was packing his bags for fine-tuning in Australia. "As the Games get closer, I am starting to get nervous and the hunger to win is returning," McKean said.

Not that he has much need for a meal. The diet of 1987, when he finished last in the world championship final, and 1988, when he was disqualified in the second round of the Olympics, went out of the window in 1989. The Scot produced European and World Cup victories, and a win over Paul Ereng — the Olympic champion's first defeat since Seoul.

There had been too much of a good thing in 1985, when McKean completed 34 successive wins, and 1986, when he won Commonwealth

and European silver. "The problem before the world championships was that he had been winning all the time," Tommy Boyle, his coach, said.

Despite three European Cup triumphs and one in the World Cup, McKean still lacks an international championship gold. But once the 800 metres begins on January 29, he will be as competitive as anyone.

Neither the Kenyans, Kiprotich or Kibet, who both ran faster than McKean last year, nor Coe, who headed the rankings, will feel comfortable with McKean at their heels as the finishing straight beckons. Renowned for his finishing speed, he feels more confident than ever with his kick. "The only difference in my training has been that I'm not doing so much of the long stuff," he said. "I was doing 1,000s and three-minute runs, which I'm not doing now, and my flat speed has improved."

The list of names which made Britain pre-eminent in world 800-metre running in the 1980s goes down as far as McKean. But, unlike the other four — Coe, Overt, Cram and Elliott — he has remained faithful to the distance in his five years as a senior international.

Soon, he may have to sing the anthem alone. Overt's international days appear to be over. Coe retires after the Games, Cram is considering a move up to 5,000 metres next year, and Elliott has become entrenched in the 1,500 metres.

Nothing would give McKean greater pleasure than to beat Coe, the world record-holder for 800 metres, at his last Games. "The guy has been my hero since I started running," he said. "But if I can spoil it for him, that's OK by me."



Sitting tight: Walker, the sole Isle of Man woman athlete, contemplates her 3,000 metres fate

Walker runs for memories

From David Powell

Brenda Walker is the sole of Man woman athlete, contemplates her 3,000 metres fate at the age of 33, she has reached the Commonwealth Games in her first few months as a track athlete. She flew to the distance. She flew to the distance. She flew to the distance.

The trial which got her to Auckland for the 3,000 metres was hardly the Alexander Stadium with Coe, Overt, Cram and Elliott. It was not even run over the flat. The distance was 1,500 metres. The trial was 1,500 metres. The trial was 1,500 metres.

Now, Walker may need to find another 30sec to avoid finishing

last in her heat on the opening day of athletics next Saturday. "I'm terrified about this race. I think my best is about 4:40," she said.

But, so the big day is not spoiled, she is going to get the best of finishing last. She has put her name down for a 1,500 metres Games warm-up race today, and steps on to the track against Liz McColgan, Yvonne Murray and nine other women capable of 4:15 or better.

As she spoke in the athletes' canteen, Sebastian Coe walked by. "Isn't that Seb Coe? I've just seen Seb Coe," she said, drawing breath deep enough to have got her around a lap. They probably say much the same about Brenda Walker on the Isle

of Man. "There's not another Manx woman who has ever got under 10 minutes for 3,000 metres," Walker said.

At the time of the last Commonwealth Games, in Edinburgh, Walker had just started running in response to a scare that she had breast cancer. "I just needed something to focus on," she said. After three years on the road, she tried the track. Walker would have done more to have chosen swimming or shooting, she focused on. "I'm runners have not got an all-weather track, the swimmers have not got a competition-sized pool, and the shooters have not got a 50-metre range," she said. But at least they have got their Commonwealth Games T-shirts and memories.

Squads boosted as artistics makes a Games comeback

By Peter Aykroyd

With artistics an official Commonwealth Games sport for the first time since 1978, all four home countries have been able to obtain grant aid to send the gymnasts to Auckland.

In 1982, the Commonwealth Gymnastics Federation (CGF) was founded to create a competition for member countries alongside the Games when the sport was not included officially. CGF events are not eligible for full grant aid, and in 1982, in Brisbane, and in 1986, in Falkirk, the national associations of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland had to restrict the numbers of their participants.

Even with grant aid available this time, England is the only home country with a full team — four men, four women and, for the first time in the Games, three rhythmic gymnasts. Wales have nearly a full complement, but have only one rhythmic gymnast. Scotland are sending three men, three women and two rhythmic gymnasts, while Northern Ireland are represented by one man and four women.

Starting on January 25, there are artistic team championships for both men and women, leading to individual apparatus finals and individual all-around finals. Rhythmic gymnasts have an individual overall competition followed by individual apparatus finals: floor, vault, uneven bars, hoop, ball and ribbon.

The dominant Commonwealth country in artistic gymnastics during the last decade has been Canada, who hold both team and individual titles. In 1986, Canada won all the gold medals — team and individual — except the floor gold which Maria Covacci, the Canadian

national champion, shared with Lisa Elliott, of England. Elliott is again in the English team, hoping to make the floor medal all her own.

However, Canadian confidence was shaken at the world championships in Stuttgart last October when the British men overtook them in the team competition. Three of those triumphant Britons are representing Britain in Auckland and could dislodge their rivals. They are James Terry, Bart Conner, and Neil Thomas. David Cox, the British reserve at Stuttgart, is the fourth.

The Welshmen could reach medal status with experienced performers such as Andrew Morris, the former British champion, and David Griffiths. This could be at the expense of two rhythmic gymnasts, while Northern Ireland are represented by one man and four women.

In the women's competition, Canada are likely to retain their team title, with England and Australia facing a close battle for the other medals. All four British girls — Lisa Grayson, the British champion, Lisa Elliott, Lorna Mainwaring and Louise Redding — performed with distinction in Stuttgart. Wales, fourth in Falkirk, could also be a strong challenger.

On paper, the individual overall artistic titles should fall to Canadians. However, May, who has been consistently showing world-class form, could upset Canadian hopes in the men's competition.

Asian cities favourites

Auckland (Reuter) — Delhi and Kuala Lumpur are the front-runners in the race to host the 1998 Commonwealth Games, a Games official said yesterday. David Dixon, the secretary of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), said: "The Games have never been held in Asia and that must count in those cities' favour."

The secretary-general of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Ranchi Singh, is planning to travel to Auckland to launch Delhi's bid, despite the

Indian sports ministry's refusal to approve a visit by a nine-member IOA delegation. A ministry official said permission was denied because the IOA did not seek government approval for its bid. The government wants to see the IOA's proposals for sports events and not bank on sports.

Dixon said that the Australian cities of Adelaide and Perth were also candidates for the 1998 Games. The CGF will decide the venue for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Auckland taxpayers pick up Games loss

Taxpayers in Auckland are to pick up a £5 million bill as part of a plan by the New Zealand government to finance a loss of £8.3 million, which has been budgeted for by the organizers of the Commonwealth Games. The host city will cover two-thirds of the loss, and the remainder will come from central government funds.

Last August, David Johnson, the former Games chairman, disclosed potential losses of £4.2 million. Then he resigned after being arrested on conspiracy charges involving a multi-million dollar fraud relating to private business affairs.

England, the favourites, and Scotland, the fourth seeds, have

been drawn in the toughest group of the Games badminton tournament, with New Zealand, Australia and India. Malaysia and Canada, the second and third seeds, are grouped with Hong Kong, Northern Ireland and the Maldives.

Swaziland, who pulled out of the Games earlier this week for financial reasons, yesterday sent a reduced team to Auckland after an emergency campaign to raise money. The team of runners, shooters, swimmers and bowlers, reduced from 31 to 16, are due to arrive in New Zealand on Tuesday, a day before the Games open. The trip had been cancelled last Tuesday after the government said it had no money.

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GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

10 unless stated

Sunday League

First division

Arsenal v Tottenham

Chelsea v Charlton

Coventry v Liverpool

Derby County v Nottingham

Everton v Sheffield W

Leeds Utd v Manchester Utd

Manchester City v Coventry

Millwall v Wimbledon

Third division

Bolton v Cardiff

Brentford v Bristol R

Bristol City v Burnley

Crewe v Birmingham

Hartlepool v Chester

Leeds Utd v Luton

Northampton v Reading

Sheff Wed Utd v Wigan

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Second division

Barnsley v Plymouth

Bournemouth v Ipswich

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Tamworth Scottish Cup

First round

Albion v Celtic

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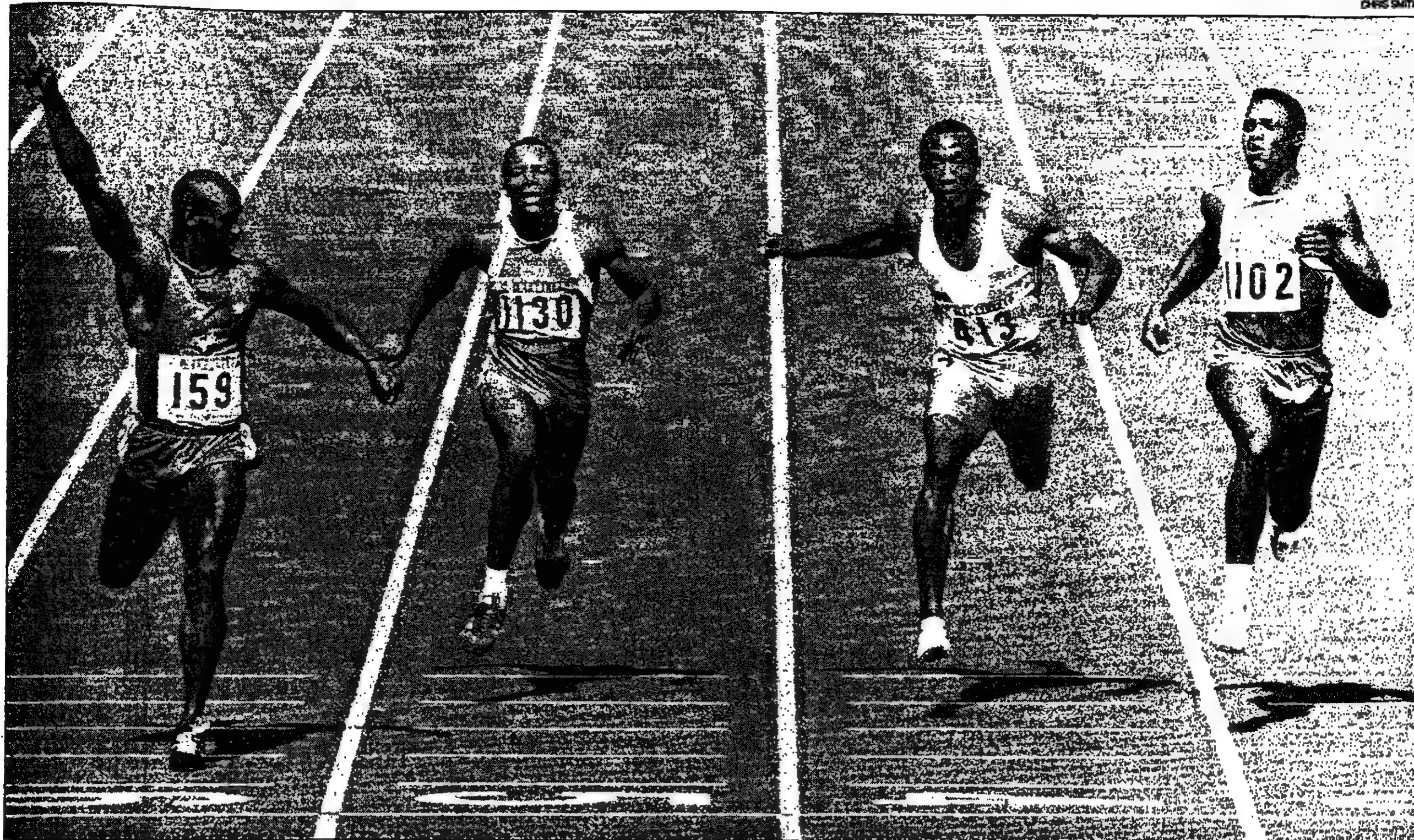
Albion v Celtic

RUGBY UNION

SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

Tarred with Johnson's brush

CHRIS SMITH



Tarnished gold: Ben Johnson stops the clock at 9.79 seconds in the 100 metres final at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 and looks to his left, in what proved short-lived triumph, at Calvin Smith (fourth), Linford Christie (third) and Carl Lewis (second).

Within three days of placing third at Seoul, Linford Christie found his bronze medal had turned to silver with Johnson's disqualification. The British sprinter then saw himself heading for similar disgrace when his own drug test gave a positive reading

Living in the Olympic Village was how I imagined it must be living in one of the council estates that were built in Britain in the Sixties, high-rise blocks of concrete flats with no character. However, inside they were comfortable enough.

I had flown into the Olympics with a big worry: a strained abdominal muscle. At my first session, I couldn't run more than 30 metres before breaking down.

This is it, I thought, my first Olympics and I'm going to be completely sidelined by injury. The night before the heats of the 100 metres I hardly slept at all with the worry of my injury. I arrived at the stadium early and had a message from Joan Watt. On my way through the checking procedures with Les Jones, the assistant team manager, I went to the lavatory two or three times, which is fairly normal. I had the young East German Matthias in my head and I knew he was a fast starter, so I concentrated hard, thinking about my own start and pick-up. I followed him out, went into the lead and won. It was so easy that I felt wonderful: my injury had disappeared.

I went back out to the warm-up track and had a further message, as I always do. Frank Dick brought across the draw for the second-round heats and I discovered that I was running against Ben Johnson. I had no worries — they had dissolved in 10.19 seconds.

We were in the first heat. Ben blazed away to his usual start, but with 10 metres to go it appeared to me that he had nothing more to give. I ran in to win, and Dennis Mitchell also went past him. It meant that Ben was in the galling position of having to wait to see if he would be one of the four fastest losers. My time was 10.11 seconds.

Ben Johnson had qualified for the semi-final by being the fastest loser with 10.17 seconds. The pundits were all agreed, however, that his chances of winning the gold medal the next day looked remote, that he had spent his chances with that injudicious race against Carl Lewis in Zurich. In the Weltklasse he had clearly not recovered from his early-season injuries, and by running there he had increased the time needed to get back to full fitness. Lewis looked set to retain his Olympic crown.

The 100 metres final was as dramatic and exciting as everyone had thought it would be. Johnson had fooled everybody again — including Lewis who for the second year in succession had run the fastest time of his life and set a new American record of 9.92 seconds, but still finished second. For the first time in history, four men had bettered 10 seconds in one race. Christie was third in 9.97 seconds. Calvin Smith, in fourth place, was timed at 9.99 seconds.

Tony and Les Jones, the assistant team manager, woke me up. They told me that Ben had been found positive on his drug test. I didn't believe them at first, but I reluctantly agreed to go on television, though I wish I had been protected from that. I talked to

both ITV and BBC, who had permanent cameras installed in the British Olympic headquarters. All I could say was that I was sorry for Ben, that he was a good friend of mine. I was in a state of shock. When the pictures were being shown in Britain, many people noticed that I was looking down all the time the interview was taking place. They thought that I was either embarrassed or emotionally cut up. What I was actually doing was looking at the monitor that was on the floor. I was taken aback that there was neither a cameraman nor an interviewer there, just a camera pointing at me. I was actually talking to people in London.

Later in the day I met one of the Canadian sprint coaches. Their team was, of course, traumatized. "I'm really sorry to hear about Ben," I said to him, and then suddenly the tears came. I couldn't hold them back. I cried for Ben because I felt so sorry for him. I have always argued that anyone who is found positive should be banned for life, but you always hope that it's not going to happen to someone you know. I cried because it hurt. It was a sad, sad day. I wasn't crying only for Ben Johnson, I was crying for my sport. I love my athletics. It is the only thing that I have ever been really good at — I was never going to be a world-class scholar or musician or anything. Sprinting has given me self-respect, taken me out of the rack. It is my business. And now, I thought, it is the end of athletics as we know it.

At 10 o'clock the IOC called its press conference. A substance had been found in the sample given by the sprinter Ben Johnson, namely "stanozolol, an anabolic steroid". The statement continued:

"The IOC Medical Commission discussed all arguments presented by the Canadian delegation, especially the statement that the substance in question might have been administered after the competition by a third party. The steroid profile, however, is not consistent with such a claim. The IOC Medical Commission recommends the following sanction: disqualification of this competitor from the Games. The decision is unanimous. No right of appeal is given."

Fifty minutes later Ben Johnson, his family and his coach, Charlie Francis, were boarding a Korean Airlines flight from Kimpo to New York.

The 100 metres hadn't been just a sporting event, it had been news. Millions of people around the world who normally had no interest in track and field had been lured by the drama of it. After the race Ben had spoken to the Canadian Prime Minister live on television, and the Premier had said that every Canadian had been made proud that day. In Jamaica people had celebrated in the

streets. All of this served only to heighten the fall when it came.

It was late on the Sunday night, the day after the 100 metres final, that the IOC Committee was told that the first test of Johnson's sample had shown positive for an anabolic steroid. At 1.45am on the Monday, the Canadian Olympic Association was informed. They in turn told Charlie Francis, who went to the Hilton Hotel to break the news to his athlete. Subsequently Francis's heavy involvement in his athletes' drug-taking would be revealed. Later that day the Canadians attended the IOC laboratories for the second test of Ben's B sample, the back-up to the original. It again showed positive. The IOC Medical Commission met and decided that Johnson should be banned; their Executive concurred. In the middle of Tuesday night, Ben was stripped of his

position until the last few strides of the race and then the Brazilian, Robinson da Silva, came past. I set a new British record of 20.09 seconds as a consolation prize for fourth, also becoming the third-fastest ever European. De Loach beat Carl, 19.76 to 19.79 seconds for a new Olympic record.

After I collected my gear, I found that I had been selected for a drug test, along with the three medal winners. During the Thursday, the day after the 200 metres when I was not competing, I was walking around in a new tee-shirt to go with my "Pure Talent" one. It said "Drug Free Zone". A reporter asked me: "Well, what do you think should happen to those people caught taking drugs?"

I said: "They should be banned for life. No reprieve." They were words that I would well remember come the next day.

But don't tell me that I'm on drugs."

We walked back to the athletes' apartment block. By this time I was beginning to feel a little hysterical. I thought about the shame of it all, what the world would say. I thought about my new tee-shirt, "Drug Free Zone". The letter from the IOC Medical Commission did not indicate what the substance was but with the prevailing atmosphere after Ben's positive test, the natural reaction was steroids. And that is what I thought: "My God, they've found steroids!"

We assembled in the downstairs room that served as an office. I was faced by Mike Turner, Ewan Murray, the chairman of the British Board, and Malcolm Read, the team doctor. I think his assistant, Malcolm Bottomley, joined us later. I had to relay to

representatives of both sports, Malcolm Read for athletics and Kenneth Kingsbury for judo.

As they climbed from their car so the media members stirred, the cameras rolled and the rumours that had already been circulating were confirmed: a British athlete and a judo competitor had been found positive. The BOA people went inside for the second tests on both men's B samples. They confirmed the positive results.

Malcolm Read came to see me and explained that they now knew what the substance was: pseudophedrine, a stimulant that is normally found in cough linctus and other medicines. A whole new line of questioning began. What did I take? Had I taken any cough medicines? I had to produce all my cartons of vitamins and ginseng. I went back to the BOA offices to meet Robert Watson, who in addition to being the Treasurer of the British Olympic Association is also a Queen's Counsel. He was the man who was going to lead the defence at the hearing that evening.

In the afternoon there were two developments. The test results revealed that, of Kerrith's and my samples, one was a serious case and the other not so serious. The other development was that ginseng was now the prime suspect in my particular case, and I had to produce all my bottles and tablets.

In the evening we set off for the Hotel Shilla in Seoul for the inquiry, leaving the Village by a back entrance in a number of cars. We were quite a large contingent: the judo people, members of the athletics team management and, of course, the BOA. When the convoy arrived at the hotel there was absolute bedlam — TV camera crews, microphones, glaring lights, pressmen, people shouting questions, utter pandemonium.

We sat in a small bedroom and discussed the procedures. I knew by now that Kerrith Brown was in much greater trouble than I was. Robert Watson is an outspoken man who doesn't mince his words, and he said simply that Brown had been damned stupid. Kerrith went down first to face the IOC Medical Committee and, as it turned out, the music. They found him guilty and took away his bronze medal. To me, sitting in the bedroom on the top floor of the Shilla, Kerrith's proceedings seemed to take a lifetime. Finally I was summoned down to face the inquiry.

The inquiry room reminded me of the European Court in Strasbourg — big tables and microphones everywhere. The room was set in a square, and we were to sit at one end. Robert Watson presented my case, and I was even more impressed with him. As he expounded our viewpoint he reminded me of a television lawyer.

Prince de Marode then asked me if I had anything to say. "Sirs," I said, "I have always been an outspoken person on drug

abuse; I have always been willing to campaign against drugs. I have never even taken an aspirin in my life. The only things that I have ever taken are in front of you." Lined up in front were samples of all my vitamin supplements and ginseng, which they then began to pass around. "I would never," I concluded, "take any illegal substances ever." The questioning was then thrown open to the members of the Medical Commission. Where did I buy my vitamins? Where did I obtain my ginseng?

I was gaining the distinct impression that the hard-liners on the commission were determined to pursue it to the bitter end. I told them that I hadn't changed my routine at all since arriving in Japan and Korea except for finishing off all my ginseng. "Why did you take such large quantities?" one of the committee asked. "Did you think it would enhance your performance?"

"I do not take anything to enhance my performance," I replied. "I take these supplements and ginseng for my whole well-being. I take them because I put my body through a tremendous stress and strain, which is unnatural. I think it is important to take vitamins in larger volume than a normal person."

"Why did you take large quantities of ginseng before the 200 metres?"

"Because," I replied, "it is a longer distance, double the distance of my main race, so I felt that I needed to replace energy quickly. I also wanted to get rid of it all to avoid carrying it back to Britain."

It was over. We adjourned to a small adjacent room. I thought about the inquiry and the questions, but there was no way of telling how it had gone. There seemed to be mixed reactions. I felt there were some people there who looked upon drug abuse as just one symptom of the degeneration of the sport they had once taken part in and loved, that drugs, money, publicity, and individual success had finally dragged it down, and they were out for blood.

We sat in the room for about 10 minutes and then returned to the inquiry. There were further exchanges and then Robert Watson said: "Let's go," and we left. There was no verdict: nobody said a word to me. Robert told me to go back to the Village and sleep.

I went back to the Village, back to my room. Much later in the small hours, Malcolm Read came up to tell me that everything was fine, that I was cleared to run pending the approval of the IOC Executive, which was a formality. I had never experienced a greater feeling of relief than when I heard Malcolm's words. For me it was tantamount to having been on Death Row and reprieved at the eleventh hour. I would not wish a similar 24 hours on my worst enemy.

Extracted from *Linford Christie: An autobiography* — Linford Christie with Tony Ward (published by Stanley Paul, £12.95) © Linford Christie 1989

It was a sad, sad day. I wasn't crying only for Ben Johnson, I was crying for my sport. I love my athletics. It is the only thing I have been good at.

Olympic gold medal. The LAAF announced that he was automatically banned for two years, and that his world record of 9.79 seconds would not be recognized.

Linford now had the silver medal and Calvin Smith the bronze. In Canada Ben had been cheered on his arrival at Toronto airport, and another crowd had gathered outside his home. He arrived but could not get in because he did not have his key, so he was left standing on his own doorstep, the crowd watching, the television cameras filming.

Thoughts of Ben stayed with me that day, mainly of the disgrace of it all and, because of that, how he must be feeling.

Life must go on though, and we received the draw for the semi-finals of the 200 metres. I just ran a relaxed race in order to qualify. Carl had won the first semi. I was beginning to feel sore, to ache after all the racing I had been doing. I had never before run so many races in such a short time span, and I was glad I had taken all of my ginseng.

I had a good draw, with Joe De Loach outside me. I thought that the best plan was to catch him as quickly as possible and then hold on to my lead down the straight. It was a good plan except that, in the race, I didn't catch him. It wasn't until afterwards that I learned he had a best time for the 100 metres of 10.03. I held the bronze medal

position until the last few strides of the race and then the Brazilian, Robinson da Silva, came past. I set a new British record of 20.09 seconds as a consolation prize for fourth, also becoming the third-fastest ever European. De Loach beat Carl, 19.76 to 19.79 seconds for a new Olympic record.

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In the afternoon there were two developments. The test results revealed that, of Kerrith's and my samples, one was a serious case and the other not so serious. The other development was that ginseng was now the prime suspect in my particular case, and I had to produce all my bottles and tablets.

In the evening we set off for the Hotel Shilla in Seoul for the inquiry, leaving the Village by a back entrance in a number of cars. We were quite a large contingent: the judo people, members of the athletics team management and, of course, the BOA. When the convoy arrived at the hotel there was absolute bedlam — TV camera crews, microphones, glaring lights, pressmen, people shouting questions, utter pandemonium.

We sat in a small bedroom and discussed the procedures. I knew by now that Kerrith Brown was in much greater trouble than I was. Robert Watson is an outspoken man who doesn't mince his words, and he said simply that Brown had been damned stupid. Kerrith went down first to face the IOC Medical Committee and, as it turned out, the music. They found him guilty and took away his bronze medal. To me, sitting in the bedroom on the top floor of the Shilla, Kerrith's proceedings seemed to take a lifetime. Finally I was summoned down to face the inquiry.

The inquiry room reminded me of the European Court in Strasbourg — big tables and microphones everywhere. The room was set in a square, and we were to sit at one end. Robert Watson presented my case, and I was even more impressed with him. As he expounded our viewpoint he reminded me of a television lawyer.

Prince de Marode then asked me if I had anything to say. "Sirs," I said, "I have always been an outspoken person on drug

abuse; I have always been willing to campaign against drugs. I have never even taken an aspirin in my life. The only things that I have ever taken are in front of you." Lined up in front were samples of all my vitamin supplements and ginseng, which they then began to pass around. "I would never," I concluded, "take any illegal substances ever." The questioning was then thrown open to the members of the Medical Commission. Where did I buy my vitamins? Where did I obtain my ginseng?

I was gaining the distinct impression that the hard-liners on the commission were determined to pursue it to the bitter end. I told them that I hadn't changed my routine at all since arriving in Japan and Korea except for finishing off all my ginseng. "Why did you take such large quantities?" one of the committee asked. "Did you think it would enhance your performance?"

"I do not take anything to enhance my performance," I replied. "I take these supplements and ginseng for my whole well-being. I take them because I put my body through a tremendous stress and strain, which is unnatural. I think it is important to take vitamins in larger volume than a normal person."

"Why did you take large quantities of ginseng before the 200 metres?"

"Because," I replied, "it is a longer distance, double the distance of my main race, so I felt that I needed to replace energy quickly. I also wanted to get rid of it all to avoid carrying it back to Britain."

It was over. We adjourned to a small adjacent room. I thought about the inquiry and the questions, but there was no way of telling how it had gone. There seemed to be mixed reactions. I felt there were some people there who looked upon drug abuse as just one symptom of the degeneration of the sport they had once taken part in and loved, that drugs, money, publicity, and individual success had finally dragged it down, and they were out for blood.

We sat in the room for about 10 minutes and then returned to the inquiry. There were further exchanges and then Robert Watson said: "Let's go," and we left. There was no verdict: nobody said a word to me. Robert told me to go back to the Village and sleep.

I went back to the Village, back to my room. Much later in the small hours, Malcolm Read came up to tell me that everything was fine, that I was cleared to run pending the approval of the IOC Executive, which was a formality. I had never experienced a greater feeling of relief than when I heard Malcolm's words. For me it was tantamount to having been on Death Row and reprieved at the eleventh hour. I would not wish a similar 24 hours on my worst enemy.

Extracted from *Linford Christie: An autobiography* — Linford Christie with Tony Ward (published by Stanley Paul, £12.95) © Linford Christie 1989

ARA seeks guiding hands for future

By a Special Correspondent

The executive officers of the Amateur Rowing Association will be holding interviews with the new potential recruits to the international rowing team in the next few months. The interviews will be held in the form of a series of seminars, one for each of the four main rowing disciplines: coxed pair, coxed four, eight and single scull. The seminars will be held in the form of a series of seminars, one for each of the four main rowing disciplines: coxed pair, coxed four, eight and single scull. The seminars will be held in the form of a series of seminars, one for each of the four main rowing disciplines: coxed pair, coxed four, eight and single scull.

Runner-up position beckons

By a Special Correspondent

The British Cycling Federation will be holding interviews with the new potential recruits to the international cycling team in the next few months. The interviews will be held in the form of a series of seminars, one for each of the four main cycling disciplines: time trial, road, track and mountain bike. The seminars will be held in the form of a series of seminars, one for each of the four main cycling disciplines: time trial, road, track and mountain bike. The seminars will be held in the form of a series of seminars, one for each of the four main cycling disciplines: time trial, road, track and mountain bike.

in Romania

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Luxembourg

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unlawful

The British Cycling Federation will be holding interviews with the new potential recruits to the international cycling team in the next few months. The interviews will be held in the form of a series of seminars, one for each of the four main cycling disciplines: time trial, road, track and mountain bike. The seminars will be held in the form of a series of seminars, one for each of the four main cycling disciplines: time trial, road, track and mountain bike. The seminars will be held in the form of a series of seminars, one for each of the four main cycling disciplines: time trial, road, track and mountain bike.

Conditions ideal for Mrs Muck

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Mrs Muck, from Nigel Twiston-Davies's small but successful Gloucestershire stable, appeals as the day's best bet to win the Mander Flexible Doors Premier Long Distance Hurdle at Haydock Park today, and she is my nap.

Where this handicap she would be giving weight to all her rivals with the possible exception of the Irish chieftain Trapper John, who finished a creditable second at Cheltenham and Liverpool on his two visits to this country last season.

As it is, Mrs Muck receives weight from them all and I firmly believe that with only 11st 2lb to carry through what are bound to be testing conditions underfoot she will never stand a better chance of winning a race of this nature again.

It was at this stage last season that Mrs Muck was seen at her best, beating the in-form Mr Gosip very readily indeed at Ascot.

As that was a handicap she is now exempt a penalty for today's conditions race unlike Kadan, Peremps Network



Nigel Twiston-Davies, who rides the fancied Mrs Muck

and Trapper John, who are all saddled with extra having won a valuable weight-for-age race during the last 15 months.

On her return to Ascot last season, Mrs Muck ran a race that was brimful of promise, being beaten by only Royal Athlete who has won twice since, albeit over fences.

Recent winning form is supported by Auction Law, Fleet Commander and Shilgrove Placem but not the sort that has always made Mrs Muck so hard to beat over today's distance, especially when the mud is flying.

At these weights, I am more afraid of Trapper John, who ran well to finish second to Naevog at Leopardstown last month after failing to cut any ice over fences.

Twelve months ago, the Daily Mail Racecard Champion Hurdle Trial was won in quite scintillating style by Vicario Di Bray, who is in the line-up again. In this instance, though, I prefer Milford Quay, who has improved like so many seem to do in leaps and bounds since joining Martin Pipe's stable.

Two factors persuaded me that the Peter Marsh Chase,

Yahoo was not disgraced at Kempton last time, even though he eventually finished 15 lengths behind Desert Orchid.

At Kempton today, Mick Ryan's versatile seven-year-old Oric makes quick return to active duty when he shoulders top weight in the Bic Razor Lancers Hurdle, having finished an honourable seventh in the Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown a week ago. On his last visit to the Sunbury track he was runner-up to Kribensis in the Christmas Hurdle. In that sort of form he will be hard to beat.

Yet still he will be hard pressed to give 15lb to Kadan, who has had a nice rest since winning three races in quick succession towards the end of November and at the beginning of December.

In each instance I admired his quick-silver jumping and his finishing pace.

Steve Smith Eccles rides Kadan for the Newmarket trainer Mark Tomkins and this four-year-old was responsible for that double at Market Rasen last Saturday.

While Smith Eccles will also

CATERICK BRIDGE

Selections
By Mandarin

1.0 Mr Quick, 1.30 Royal Mile, 2.0 Old Applejack, 2.30 Fyrie Sun, 3.0 Ringmore, 3.30 Spark Of Peace, 4.0 Colombine.

Going: good to firm

1.0 SEAMER NOVICES CHASE (22.11.2m) (7 runners)

1.01 MR QUICK 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - S. J. O'Neill
2.01 ROYAL MILE 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton
3.01 FYRIE SUN 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton
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7.01 SEAMER 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton

1.30 BEDALE NOVICES HURDLE (21.36.0) 3m 1f

1.01 MR QUICK 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - S. J. O'Neill
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7.01 SEAMER 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton

2.0 LEEMING HANDICAP CHASE (22.30.1) 3m 1f

1.01 MR QUICK 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - S. J. O'Neill
2.01 ROYAL MILE 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton
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2.30 SWALE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21.00.0) 2m 1f

1.01 MR QUICK 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - S. J. O'Neill
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2.30 SWALE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21.00.0) 2m 1f

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KEMPTON PARK

Selections
By Mandarin

1.10 Decided, 2.40 Katabatic, 2.10 Kadon, 3.40 File Concord.

By Michael Seely
2.10 WONDER MAN (nap), 2.40 Katabatic, The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.10 OSRICK.

Going: good

1.10 BIC RAZOR NOVICES CHASE (23.70.4) 2m (8 runners)

1.01 BIC RAZOR 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - S. J. O'Neill
2.01 WONDER MAN 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton
3.01 KATABATIC 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton
4.01 FILE CONCORD 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton
5.01 DECIDED 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton
6.01 CADON 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton
7.01 OSRICK 14 (P) (J) Winton 11-11-11 - P. Winton

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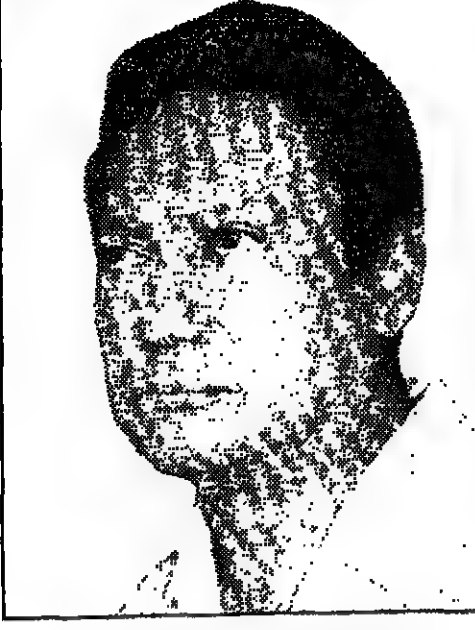
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Golf Correspondent Mitchell Platts marks a turning point in the life of the greatest player the game has seen

An American legend changes course

Jack Nicklaus, the chubby youngster with the unbecoming crew cut who shed his fat-boy image to become the Golden Bear all America loves, is 50 years old tomorrow.

He has repelled one young pretender after another during a noble career but now the days of parrying the thrusts of Tom Watson and Severiano Ballesteros are all but over. Next weekend he will be reminded of how it all began as once again he strides the fairways with Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Lee Trevino, in the Senior Skins tournament in Hawaii.

The difference is not so much that they are now all "seniors" but that Nicklaus does not start at something of a disadvantage, as he did in 1962, when he first won as a professional. Then he plunged into the professional pool and, not surprisingly, confronted a tidal wave of resentment because he had the temerity to challenge and conquer Palmer, the idol of the spectators. Of course, he went on to achieve so much more than that.

Nicklaus is recognized as the finest golfer in the history of the game. In 1988 he was officially named "Golf of the Century" following a remarkable career of which the highlights are six wins in the Masters, five in the US PGA Championship, four in the US Open, three in the Open Championship and two in the US Amateur Championship.

"The Nicklaus record? You can forget anyone ever beating that," Gene Sarazen, aged 87, one of only four players to have won the four major championships that comprise the professional grand slam, said. "Nobody will ever come close to his 20 championships. It's the safest record in sports."

Sarazen was speaking at Augusta last April. He was standing on the veranda of the colonial clubhouse and as he spoke he surveyed the scene below him. "Look at them," Sarazen said. "College-bred, smart as a whip, most of them millionaires and soon-to-be millionaires. So many that no one among them will be able to take charge and win those big titles in clusters. This is a new era we're entering upon."

The Nicklaus era began when he turned professional late in 1961. He possessed the amateur pedigree to be hailed a future champion, but failed to look the part. Palmer was perceived by his devoted admirers to have more charisma in his little finger than Nicklaus had in the pudgy figure which promoted the taunting cries of "Fat Jack."

What lit the blue touch paper of abuse against Nicklaus was the unhappy coincidence that in 1962 he played his first US Open as a professional in the heart of Palmer country at the Oakmont Country Club, Pittsburg.

Those who saw that championship unfold well remember how many, who hero-worshipped Palmer, reacted to Nicklaus winning what would be the first of his 18 major professional championships. "The gallery were rude, loud

JACK WILLIAM NICKLAUS

Born: Columbus, Ohio, Jan 21, 1940.

Married: Barbara Bash, five children.

Turned professional: 1961; joined US Tour 1962.

Career details: US Amateur champion 1959, 1961; NCAA champion 1961. Won a record number of major championships — US Masters (1963, 1965, 1966, 1972, 1975, 1980), US PGA (1963, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1980), US Open (1962, 1967, 1972, 1980), Open Championship (1966, 1970, 1978), US PGA player of the year 1967, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976.

Tour victories: 71.

Career earnings: \$5,005,825.

Favorite of the gallery: Jack Nicklaus, acknowledging the crowd at St Andrews, is far removed from the intense, unsmiling player he once was

and offensive," Mark McCormack recalls. "Until 1962 yelling 'miss it' when a golfer was trying to do a putt was unheard of. You heard it at Oakmont. Most of the remarks were directed against Nicklaus. They cheered when he hit it into a bunker, they coaxed his ball into rough and if they could have found a way to throw his clubs onto the Pennsylvania Turnpike they probably would have. The gallery on the last day was certainly among the most ill-behaved ever."

So Nicklaus faced a problem of personality more than an examination of his ability. He was fat. He did not hitch-up his pants and give the ball a rip like Palmer. His ice-blue eyes were mean and gave the hint of emotion. He was indeed, borrowing a line from Henry, "the master of his fate, the captain of his soul."

McCormack had cajoled Nicklaus into turning his back on a \$24,000-a-year job in the insurance business with the promise that he would make a minimum of \$100,000 in his first season. Victory in the US Open meant that McCormack's predicted figure represented nothing more than small change.

Not that turning professional did not leave its scars. Nicklaus, the son of a pharmacist, has one regret. When he left the amateur ranks the dean of Ohio State University informed him that he would need to drop out of college. "He said he didn't want a registered student being publicized as playing all over the world," Nicklaus said. "It was a decision I disagreed with and fought bitterly. It's the only thing in my life that I've ever started and didn't finish."

Most certainly Nicklaus has met head-on and won every challenge he has confronted during his illustrious career, supported every inch of the way by Barbara Bash who, like Nicklaus, was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. They met during their freshman year at Ohio State and married three years later, when both were only 20.

"I told Jack from the start, even though he was so hurt by the reaction to his US Open win in 1962, that he was so honest and straightforward that some day he would work it out," Barbara Nicklaus said. "I knew he had the confidence and I knew he could concentrate on something and shut out all extraneous thoughts like no one I'd ever known."

What best illustrates his tunnel vision, apart from being able to take a course like Augusta and rip it to shreds, is the way he changed his appearance in 1969. He lost almost two stones in weight in five weeks and reduced his hip measurement by no less than eight inches. He



Favorite of the gallery: Jack Nicklaus, acknowledging the crowd at St Andrews, is far removed from the intense, unsmiling player he once was

"In fact, I called him 'Stonewall'.

If he was watching television, and was especially interested by a programme, then the house could burn down around him and he wouldn't notice," Nicklaus, however, could be arrogant and, at times, abrasive, which helped when it came to winning championships, but did little to the admiration of the spectators.

Yet despite his air of Teutonic stoicism and his unrelenting search for perfection, there was a more sensitive side to Nicklaus that craved acceptance as a human being as well as a great golfer.

The majesty of his game would, of course, eventually help him achieve his aims, although Nicklaus would be the first to pay tribute to Jack Grout, the teacher with whom he worked from the age of 10. Grout died last May, so for Nicklaus there was a poignant start to this year. "My first action each New Year was to track down Jack then greet him with the same old line: 'OK Jack, let's go. Teach me golf all over again.'"

This philosophy — that a full review of the fundamentals was always necessary, even when he was playing the greatest golf of his life — provides evidence enough that Nicklaus never lost sight of the need to overhaul his swing.

What best illustrates his tunnel vision, apart from being able to take a course like Augusta and rip it to shreds, is the way he changed his appearance in 1969. He lost almost two stones in weight in five weeks and reduced his hip measurement by no less than eight inches. He

grew his hair and the era of the Golden Bear truly dawned. By then he had won seven major professional championships and he came to Britain in 1970 with his new look and won the Open at St Andrews.

I was there, at the home of golf, that Nicklaus buried the image of being an unwanted predator in Palmer's domain. The act of removing his sweater prior to becoming the first known player to drive through the green at the 18th, as he beat Doug Sanders in the play-off, marks the moment of change. The way he greeted success by leaping in the air and hurling his putter skywards gave a lie to the theory that he lacked emotion.

Nicklaus was now 30. He was unquestionably the best golfer in the world, and yet his best was yet to come. He had begun the 1970s having not won a major championship since the US Open in 1967. He won another seven majors in the next 10 years and yet he approached the 1980s as he had the 1970s, with speculation rife about his future. He had failed to win in 1979. Now he considered what lay ahead as he unwrapped the birthday present from his children: a T-shirt on which was inscribed "Jack Nicklaus is 40".

It was then that Nicklaus was man enough to accept that the cornerstone of his game — power — was a thing of the past. He modified his swing to make allowances for *anno domini* and he won the US Open in 1980. Afterwards, at Baltusrol, there was no stopping Nicklaus as he sat talking for three

hours. "I should probably retire now, but I haven't got the sense," he mused.

Two months later he had won the US PGA title. Three years later, at Augusta, he was rendered helpless by a severe muscle spasm across the lumbar region. He lay in agony for hours in the locker room. Back trouble has plagued Nicklaus throughout his life and X-rays have shown a degeneration of the discs in his lower spine.

Yet, back at Augusta in 1986, Nicklaus had cause to reflect on whether instant retirement was an option once again. He had played the inward half in 30 strokes, which tied the record, on his way to a final round of 65 as he won his sixth Masters, which earned him probably the most emotional reception of his life.

It was an astonishing win for many reasons, not least of which was that he had long since elected not to make playing the most important thing in his life.

"I got a big kick and a lot of pleasure out of designing courses," he said. He also gets a lot of money. The basic charge for a Nicklaus design ranges from \$1 million in the United States to \$2 million in Japan. In Britain his first venture was St Mellion, in Cornwall, and he is presently involved in a new course for Gleneagles. What one might suspect would concern Nicklaus, and yet does not, is the thought that, unlike his playing record, his courses could be disfigured by others.

"People will come along and tamper with them," he said. "They are doing that already; they've been

fooling around with Shoal Creek, where the US PGA is being played in August. That's all right. I can't do everything perfect. I make mistakes. Sometimes I get carried away."

Now, at the start of the 1990s, Nicklaus has a new target. "I want to win a tournament on each Tour — the regular and the Seniors," he said. "It's the first goal I've set myself in 10 years. The Seniors Tour is growing bigger and bigger and I feel I owe it to the game itself, to the sponsors and to the public to keep playing as long as I can. I see it as my duty."

Nicklaus, of course, owes the game not a tee peg. It is the game that he has so enriched which should be indebted to him. Barbara Nicklaus sums it up succinctly. "I simply cannot imagine Jack Nicklaus not playing golf. It is what he does, has always done, better than anything in the world."

ROWING

ARA seeks guiding hands for future

By a Special Correspondent

The executive officers of the Amateur Rowing Association will be holding interviews today for the new posts to organize the international rowing scene as the sport moves into the 1990s.

Following the international selection problems of last summer, a special council meeting in October decided to do away with the post of director of international rowing, held by Penny Chuter, and to set up two new roles of responsibility, a performance director and an international rowing manager.

The performance director is the head of the new arrangement and, as was stated in October, this post is "top of the management system" and will oversee the selection process. The international rowing manager's tasks will be more logistical in nature and in many ways the splitting of the two responsibilities is something that Chuter advocated. There will also be an appeals panel, as in the past, headed by one of three members who have considerable experience of international rowing.

Dr Ellis, chairman of the executive committee, is not prepared to reveal the candidates for the posts, although it is already known that Chuter will be among those in contention for performance director, together with "someone from overseas". An announcement of the executive officers' decision is expected some time next week.

CYCLING

Runner-up position beckons

By a Special Correspondent

Britain's Andy Layhe and John Pemberton had both hoped to finish second in the European Junior Challenge cyclo cross series, but only Pemberton can do anything about it in the final race, Nantes, in France, tomorrow.

Layhe, of Kenilworth, Wiltshire, qualified as a junior last year in the first three rounds and holds second place overall. But now he is a senior and stays at home, while Pemberton, a senior team selected for the World Championships in Spain on February 3-4 have their final chance to meet their likely opposition.

Pemberton, of Cheshire, is still a junior and in third in the European Challenge. If he can get in the first five at Nantes he will beat Layhe to second place, with Jerome Chami, of France, unbeatable as he won the first three events.

Richard Thackray, of Bradford, Yorkshire, and Chris Perry, of Cheshire, support Pemberton on their first international outing.

Steve Barnes, of Ace RT, whose silver medal in the recent open national championship split three professionals, is the man on form for Britain.

FISHING: A SASSENACH TAKES THE HONOURS AS THE NEW SALMON SEASON BEGINS IN SCOTLAND

Unique lure of opening day

By Conrad Voss Bark

There is nothing quite like the opening day of a new salmon season after the absence of winter. The Scots are especially enthusiastic about opening days, for they have them earlier than anyone else. They go on fishing longer — November on the Tweed is often the highlight of the season — and no sooner is that over than, in a matter of weeks, they are out on the river again.

There was a rumour once that scientists did not approve of a short close season, for it hardly gave the fish much of a chance to spawn before being harried with lines and spinners whirling about their heads. However, the Scots, a practical race, ignored all that and insisted on the traditional reopening of the season as soon as they had recovered from the rigours of Hogmanay.

The only trouble is that opening day, which on the Tay is January 15, almost invariably coincides with the worst of Scottish weather. There was the classic case, which you may remember, of the six salmon fishermen from London who went up to the Tay for an opening day, found the river full of grue, ice on the rings, ice on the rocks, and snowdrifts 10 and 20 feet deep. They failed to come back when they should have done because they were all in hospital. Four of them had frostbite, a fifth broke his leg on the ice and the sixth, who was the only one to take a fish, suffered a heart attack from the excitement.

This year, however, there were no casualties, so far as I know, for the river was running well and for a large part of the time it was raining and mild. Tradition

was followed. The pipers piped, the drinkers drank, the protesters were led to the river bank and the first casts made. There is nothing like the first cast on an opening day. It seems to be an extreme achievement, like climbing Everest, though of course without any noticeable result except that the river is there and the fly is in the water.

The winner of this year's opening day competition from the Keamore Hotel, on Tayside, a great place for a celebration, was a Sassenach, a fisherman from Oxfordshire, Nick Bailey.

To begin with, he dutifully tried a fly, a big Willie Gunn, which produced nothing more exciting than a kelt. After that he put up a bait rod and a Kynoch Killer and took two fish, one of 18lb and another of 18½lb, and went back to the Keamore feeling, he said, "very lucky".

Welsh champions are backed by Japanese

By Jack Crossley

They sing very nicely, play a tidy game of rugby and produce the odd world-class snooker player. But it is in none of these fields that the Welsh are among the hot favourites to win the World Cup in 1990.

What the Welsh are world champions at is angling. Unopposed, unsung and unknown, they went to Bulgaria in 1989, beat teams from 25 nations and returned home with the world title and prize-money totalling not one penny.

The Welsh squad of seven — a window cleaner, a hairdresser, three factory workers and two chaps in the fishing tackle trade — saved up between £1,000 and £2,000 each and fished the championship on waters totally strange to them. The 1990 championships will

be different. A Japanese tackle firm is sponsoring the same Welsh squad to the tune of £30,000, and in April a scouting party will reconnoitre the match venue, a two-mile stretch of the River Drava in the university town of Maribor, Yugoslavia.

The Japanese sponsors are Shimano, who happily admit to backing probably the most expensive fishing tackle in the world. Their head man in the United Kingdom is a Welshman, John Loftus, who says: "What I'm pleased about is that we were able to agree in principle to back the Welsh team before they won the world title."

"Now their chances are improved because they can afford to get some practice in on the River Drava. That's going to put them on more equal footing."

New era dawns in Romania

By Peter Aylkroyd

Following the revolution in Romania, the country's gymnastics will be able to compete freely in all important events this year, according to Maria Simionescu, the distinguished Romanian international judge, who is the vice-president of the women's technical committee of the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique, the world governing body.

Only a month ago, a representative of the Romanian federation, speaking in London, contended that the defection to the United States of Nadia Comaneci meant that the regime would probably not allow entry into important events abroad before the 1991 world championships in Minneapolis.

Now, everything has changed. Speaking from Bucharest, Simionescu said: "Things are going to be so much better. Training at our national centre is now continuing as normal."

She thanked friends in international gymnastics for their support through difficult times and was optimistic that a Romania team would take part in the Champions All tournament at Birmingham in March. Romanian gymnasts will definitely compete in the European championships, scheduled for Lausanne (men) and Athens (women) in May, when they will resume their traditional rivalry with the Soviet Union.

Simionescu, known universally as Miti, was coach of the Romanian women's team at the Melbourne, Rome and Tokyo Olympic Games. After becoming administrative head of women's gymnastics, she persuaded the government to establish a specialised high school for the sport, on the lines of similar schools already founded for the arts. The school, in Onesti, was

where Comaneci was trained to dominate world gymnastics in the 1970s. Up to now, gymnastic talent in Romania has been nurtured in much the same way as in the rest of Eastern Europe. Elite gymnasts — they can be picked out at the age of six — reach the national squads through the country's sports schools and, of course, success in competition.

Training at this level has been under strict bureaucratic control — one of the factors which led to Comaneci, in her role as national women's coach, making her decision to defect. It is understood that her repeated requests for changes were ignored.

The new era in Romanian gymnastics will allow a more rational approach to training. But the aim remains the same — to maintain Romania's position as a world leader.

Law Report January 20 1990

Justices warned not to be gullible

DPP v Eddowes

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Nolan [Judgment January 18]

Justices had to be careful not to be so gullible as to accept as a defence the argument that a defendant was too stressed following a motor accident to provide a specimen of breath.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing a prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated against the decision of Totton Justices who found that the defendant, Michael John Eddowes, had not

wilfully refused to provide specimens of breath, contrary to section 8(7) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 as substituted in Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981, as he had been in a situation of stress following a traffic accident.

Mr William Mousley for the prosecutor; Mr Godfrey Browne for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that in the case stated there was a recital of the evidence provided by a police constable and by the defendant. That was most undesirable and impermissible.

The Divisional Court was required to be presented with a series of findings of fact from which it was to draw a point or points of law.

It was quite impossible to deduce which facts had been found by the justices but what appeared to be in the minds of the justices was that they accepted the defendant, after a first successful attempt to provide a specimen, failed to provide further specimens and that he had a reasonable excuse for not so doing despite the fact that there was no evidence to show mental or physical disability.

An oral description to any inquirer did not nullify the false trade description. The offence was committed when the goods were exposed for supply and at that stage at least a written disclaimer was necessary.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF, agreeing, said that it would contravene the whole intent and purpose of the section if it was open to a trader to expose for sale goods bearing a false trade description and then make a disclaimer when someone approached to buy the goods.

His Lordship would be prepared to say that the observations made in *Cugrove v Cooney* ([1987] RTR 124) should not be followed and that the court should be guided by *R v Lennard* ([1973] RTR 252) but, in any event, the instant circumstances were distinguishable.

It seemed to his Lordship that in the instant case the justices were in no position to broach the question whether a reasonable excuse had been provided for failing to provide a specimen as no excuse whatsoever had been given.

Many motorists had to give specimens after being involved in accidents and if a state of stress following an accident provided an automatic reasonable excuse the whole purpose of the Act would be defeated. Justices had to be careful not to be so gullible.

Mr Justice Nolan agreed. Solicitors: CPS, Eastleigh; Moore & Blatch, Totton.

Correction

In *R v Phillipson* (The Times January 5) the judge appealed from at Isleworth Crown Court was Judge Marcus Edwards, not Judge Quentin Edwards, QC.

European Law Report

Date stamps on eggs unlawful

Ministère Public v Paris

Before Sir Gordon Slynn, President of the First Chamber, and Judges R. Joliet, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias

Advocate General G. Gessaro (Opinion September 26, 1989) [Judgment December 13]

One of the purposes of the regulation on marketing standards for eggs was to ensure that consumers were provided with accurate information and for that purpose the regulation set out exhaustively the information which might be marked on eggs, which information did not include the date upon which the egg had been laid.

Mr Jean-Jacques Paris had been prosecuted for having offered for sale fresh eggs upon which he had marked the date of laying, contrary to articles 11 and 15 of Regulation No 2772/75 of the Council of October 29, 1975 on marketing standards for eggs (OJ No L 282, p 56).

That regulation laid down the marketing standards for eggs which were regarded as necessary to improve their quality and to facilitate distribution, in the interest of producers, traders and consumers.

By article 15 of the regulation: "Eggs shall not bear any marks other than those provided for in the present regulations". The marks which might be applied to eggs were set out at article 11

and did not include the date of laying; it was, however, permissible to indicate the period or date of packaging.

Without disputing the facts alleged against him, Mr Paris challenged the validity of article 15 of Regulation No 2772/75 on the basis that it was contrary to the fundamental right of consumers to information and to the Treaty of Rome.

The Tribunal de Police (Local Criminal Court), Rehel, Ardennes, France, stayed its proceedings and referred a question to the interpretation of article 15 to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice ruled as follows:

The wording of article 15 left no doubt as to the prohibition which it imposed upon operators in the egg market not to put the date of laying on eggs which they distributed; moreover, that interpretation was not disputed either in the written observations or at the hearing.

It was therefore necessary to consider the question submitted to the Court as relating, in substance, to the validity of article 15.

The provision of information to consumers was one of the objectives pursued by the dis-

puted regulation. According to its preamble, consumers were to have the possibility of distinguishing eggs according to different categories of quality and weight and that requirement might be satisfied by applying marks to the eggs.

It was important that the information provided to the consumer should be reliable and therefore that it should be easy for the national authorities to verify.

According to the Commission it was not practicable to carry out checks at the production level, which would be essential in order to guarantee the accuracy of the date of laying, by reason of the dispersion of producers.

It was for that reason that both the Commission and the Council experts were of the opinion that only the present system, which was based upon checks carried out mainly in packaging centres, which were less numerous and less dispersed than producers' establishments, made it possible to guarantee with certainty the accuracy of information provided to the consumer such as the date of packaging.

Taking into account the necessity of reconciling both the interests of producers and those

of consumers as well as the sometimes differing interests of different categories of producers, it did not appear that, in their overall assessment of the situation and from the nature of the measures required, that the institutions had committed manifest errors in the way in which they had exercised the general limits of their discretionary powers.

Article 40(3)(2) of the Treaty, which prohibited any discrimination between producers or consumers in the Community, sought to ensure that competitive conditions were the same for all the operators concerned.

By establishing common standards for the distribution of eggs in the Community territory, the disputed regulation was in conformity with that objective.

On those grounds the European Court (First Chamber) ruled as follows:

Consideration of the question raised had disclosed no factor of such a kind as to affect the validity of article 15 of Regulation No 2772/75 of the Council of October 29, 1975 on marketing standards for eggs, in as much as it contained a prohibition on marking eggs with dates, such as the date of laying, other than those provided for in the regulation.

TRAVEL

Taking relaxation seriously

Robin Neillands enters the charmed world of health farms and has his stress smoothed away along with the excess pounds

As I met outside the weighing room at Ragdale Hall gave me the good news about health farms. No one who goes there is fat, perish the thought. The big reason for visiting a health farm is stress.

I went to Ragdale because I was at least a stone overweight, quite unfit, and puffing a bit on the stairs, but I soon realized that I was indeed under stress, mostly about what to wear during my stay. Should I spend the day in a dressing gown, I wondered, or flit about the treatment rooms in my newly bought tracksuit? Once I had settled for the tracksuit, which is the unisex rig-of-the-day at most health farms, I felt a whole lot better, almost stress-free, in fact.

Set in a large country house close to Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire, Ragdale Hall concentrates on relaxation, diets and individually designed fitness programmes. The food is good and so adjusted that you can eat like a horse and still not exceed 850 calories a day. With that, some exercise and a few treatments, I was melting away within hours, and my three-day stay passed quite pleasantly. I lost half a stone and left determined to try again.

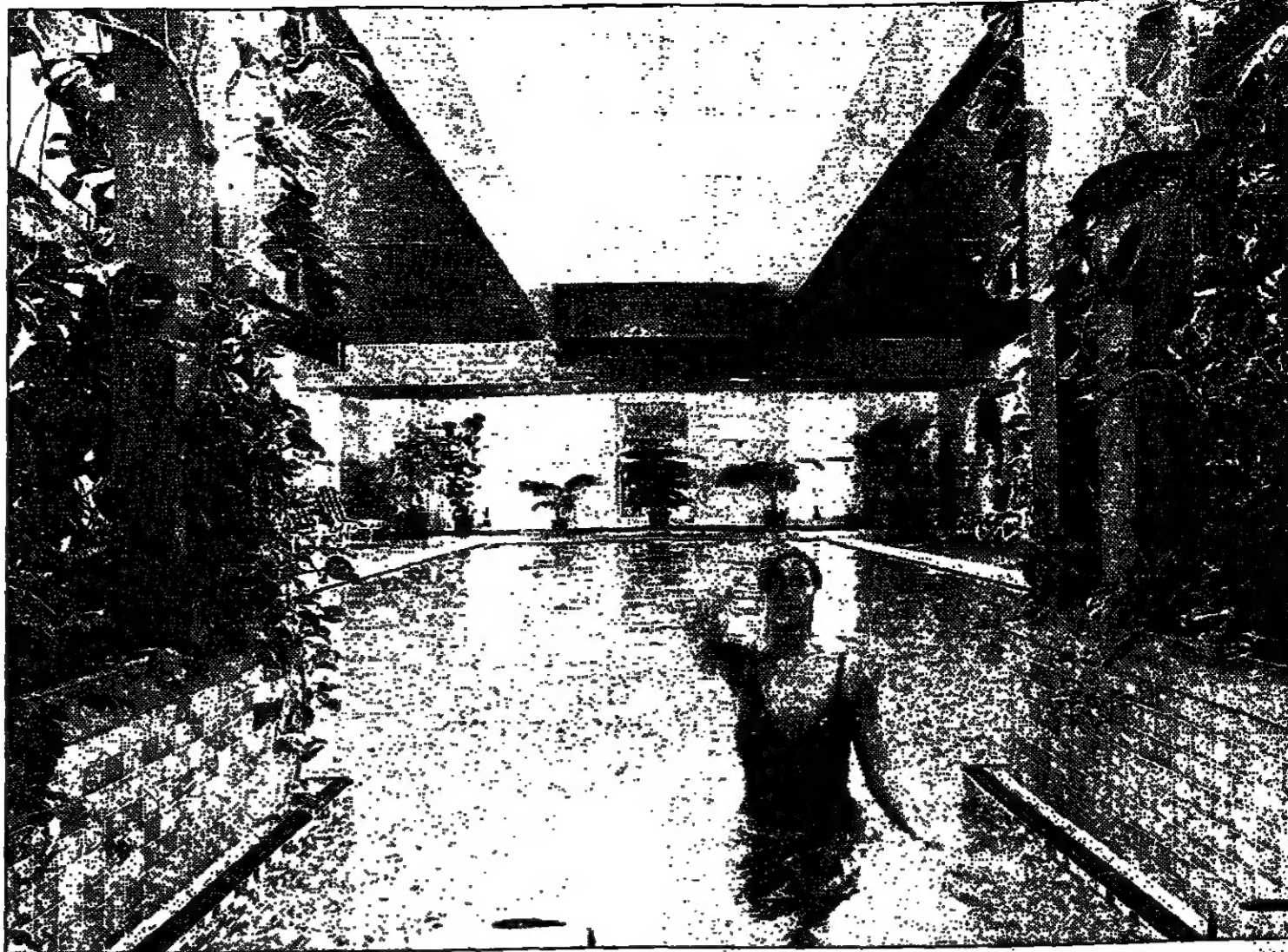
Health farms vary in their approach to health and fitness, but the basic ingredients are much the same. Generally set in country houses surrounded by large grounds, they offer all the comforts of a five-star hotel, usually at a five-star price.

To the basic cost, which covers accommodation, meals, a range of treatments and free use of all the facilities, one must add the cost of any other optional treatments, some of which can be costly, exotic — and hard to resist. You

pay your money and you take your choice, but the cost of these treatments can mount alarmingly. Health farm clients therefore tend to be well-heeled professional people, with a ratio between men and women of about 30:70 per cent. Some stick rigidly to their programmes, others are simply there to relax and enjoy themselves.

Most health farms offer the same basic package for a minimum three-day stay, although some establishments also have day courses or weekend breaks. Those who want extra treatments book them individually and, within very broad limits, the visit can be as busy or as relaxed as the client wishes. That said, there are considerable variations between health farms, both in the range of facilities on offer and the approach they take to the serious business of relaxation.

Chamneys, near Tring in Hertfordshire, was the first proper health farm, established in 1925 in a house that once belonged to the Rothschilds. Visits here, as elsewhere, begin with a consultation with the medical sister and a dietitian, who weigh the guest in and provide a basic regimen for the rest of the stay. There is a full range of facilities, pool, gym, exercise room, and a vast range of treatments — including the seaweed body wrap (£25) — and advice on back pain and how to stop smoking, plus fresh-air activities including cycling, walking and horse-riding. There are two dining-rooms, one for the weak-willed on strictly controlled diets, the other for those who can resist the puddings without too much effort. There are evening talks and lectures, usually on some health-related topic. A new feature for the



Five-star comforts: the food may be minimalist and alcohol non-existent, but the key to health farm living is luxury. Swimming at Ragdale Hall

coming winter is a weekend ski-fitness programme, which runs through to the middle of February. Chamneys also offers day programmes, with massage and other treatments, at prices from £79.95, while rates for longer stays vary from £105 to £500 a night according to the accommodation required.

Grayshot Hall near Hindhead in Surrey offers the full range of health farm activities, plus a particular programme to cope with stress, designed for Grayshot by psychologist Dr Audrey Livingstone. This programme, price £30, takes place in the afternoon, leaving the guests free to enjoy all the other activities in the morning and evening. There is a huge indoor pool, a dance studio, physiotherapy, osteopathy and chiropody, swimming lessons, golf and tennis coaching and two dining-rooms, one for diet-follower, the other for food-lovers. Neither room serves alcohol. Room rates at Grayshot vary from £75 to £100 per day. Like most health farms,

Shrublands occupies a former country house, in this case Shrublands Hall, built in 1740 on one of the highest hills in Suffolk and still surrounded by a classical English garden. The interior furnishings are on a lavish scale and the food is excellent but never cooked. Salads, raw fruit, home-made yoghurt and wholewheat bread make up the Shrubland diet. Treatments available include underwater massage, sauna, hydrotherapy and instruction on relaxation techniques. Weekly prices start at £290 for a single room and £325 for a double room.

Forest Mere, near Liphook in Hampshire, believes in a serious, even strict, regimen. At most health farms, the guests can take a full part in activities or drift along gently on their own, but at Forest Mere they are expected to avoid business and social life, stay off the telephone, stop or reduce smoking, refrain from alcohol altogether and take some exercise. This sounds like my kind of place. Crash diets are not recommended,

but most guests start on the light diet to get their gorging under control before returning to a more normal diet before leaving. Bicycles are available for excursions into the countryside, and there are a number of good golf courses in the vicinity. Basic prices start at £515 for one week.

Cedar Falls in Somerset is a place which believes in relaxation and tranquillity — up to a point. Diets are prepared individually and then taken one day at a time, with a nutritional adviser at your breakfast table every morning to plan the intake for the day.

Otherwise the emphasis here is on reducing tension, increasing fitness and getting away from the hurly-burly of daily life. There is the usual range of treatments, plus golf, fishing, riding and walking in the beautiful Quantock Hills. Cedar Falls tends to be less expensive than other health farms, at prices from £54 to £115 per night for a single room, though guests are expected to stay for seven nights.

Ragdale Hall concentrates on diet and beauty, so your first appointment here is with the

dietician, and a beauty treatments office is open seven days a week, from 7.30am until 8pm. There is a sports coach on hand to arrange fitness programmes in the gym or exercise room, and smoking is strictly forbidden except in the smokers' lounge. I found this a crowded, £50 calories a day, and there is a full range of treatments and facilities, including an assault course. Ragdale Hall prices start at £71.50 per person per night in a twin room, rising to £130 per person in a suite.

Henlow Grange has a pleasantly relaxed approach to health and fitness, with the rare word "holiday" appearing frequently in its brochure. Set in the Bedfordshire countryside, just 40 miles north-east of London, Henlow offers a notably wide range of sporting activities: cycling, table tennis, swimming, that daily jog, walking, exercise classes. Fortunately, there is also good food, pleasant company, and all the usual comforts. Prices for a one-week stay start at £62.50 per night, which includes a good range of massages and

treatments, plus a total fitness and relaxation programme. Everyone arriving at the Henlow Health Hydro in the Berkshire Downs gets a comprehensive, individually prescribed regimen covering diet, exercise and treatments for the duration of the stay. Medical consultants and gym instructors are on hand with special classes on subjects such as how to stop smoking, which are part of the daily round. Keen slimmers can start their stay with a 48-hour fast on lemon and water, gradually returning to a healthy diet over the week. The normal regimen covers four treatments a day, all included in the tariff, with saunas, steam baths, massages and perhaps a mud bath. Single room prices at Henlow start at £295 per week, three-day breaks from £210.

The Tynningham Naturopathic Clinic at Newport-Pagnell offers alternative medicine as the basis of the treatment. Fasting is permitted and vegetarian diets available, while treatments include acupuncture, inhalation, osteopathy and stress-release sessions. The clinic prefers clients to come on medical recommendations and stay for a minimum of one week. Facilities include an indoor and outdoor heated pool, tennis, badminton, and a wide range of beauty treatments. Prices start at £170 per person per week, rising to £415.

Finally, moving north, the Brooklands Country House Health Farm near Preston offers an "all-in price" for full-board accommodation and a wide range of treatments. Other facilities at this pleasant country house include a Turkish bath and steam room, a solarium, a range of exercise machines, tennis, and an indoor pool. Prices here for one week, inclusive of treatments, start at £713 for a seven-night stay. Five and three-day breaks are also available.

For brochures and further information contact: Chamneys at Tring, Hertfordshire (0462 873155); Grayshot Hall, Hindhead, Surrey (042873 4381); Shrubland Hall, Ipswich, Suffolk (0473 830404); Forest Mere, Liphook, Hampshire (0428 722051); Cedar Falls, Taunton, Somerset (0823 433638); Ragdale Hall, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (0535 424831); Henlow Grange, Henlow, Bedfordshire (0462 811111); Ingelwood Health Hydro, Kintbury, Berkshire (0488 820222); Tynningham Naturopathic Clinic, Newport Pagnell, Bedfordshire (0908 610450); Brooklands Country House Health Farm, Garstang, near Preston, Lancashire (0952 5162).

Reach for the (alpine) sky

Skiers who are frustrated at the lack of snow should learn a new winter sport such as paragliding, Doug Sager writes

Mary and Kathy, veteran chaperone girls, are used to being up in the air. Dave, a farmer from Herefordshire, likes to keep his feet on the ground. All three, along with two French speakers who make up the quorum of the debutant class at Verbier's Centre Parapente, are refugees from the pistes.

Each has shelled out £60 for an "initiation day" into paragliding or, as it is called in the Alps, *parapente*. It is a high-risk, high-reward alternative to skiing. And for many frustrated skiers it is the only game in town.

Claude Ammann, director of the Verbier school, issues every client with a helmet and a chute appropriate to body weight. He hurls a few hundred metres up to the school's gentle beginners' slope. On the way Claude delivers a brief lecture on the history and development of the sport.

In the past five years, since the chutes first appeared in Verbier, Swiss designer Laurent de Kalbermatten has developed sails which will soar nearly seven horizontal metres for every metre lost vertically to gravity.

All this is inspiring to the beginners trying to make sense of the tangle of strings and the seeming acres of canopy (about 20 square metres) they have pulled out of their rucksacks. Claude patiently explains the mysteries of front risers, rear risers, brakes and sit-down harness, while another instructor does it all in French to make sure no one is left unclued.

I observe that the pace of teaching is much more deliberate, the instructor more inclined to hands-on rehearsal of every movement, than when I first flew a few years ago. Claude explains that the Swiss licensing authorities, alarmed by a 70 per cent increase in serious accidents over the past year, have issued tougher teaching guidelines.

Anyone thinking of trying *parapente* this winter should note that the Swiss standards are the most stringent in the world. But schools differ widely in the experience of their instructors, in the age and quality of school chutes, and in the suitability of the local terrain for teaching.

Veteran of nearly 5,000 flights, Claude does not hesitate to tell prospective clients when *parapente* is not for them. "If you are just out for a good time, you are most likely to have a bad experience," he warns. He has deliberately raised his prices 30 per cent this year to discourage the uncommitted. "I don't want

these, what you call, Hooray Henriets!" he says flatly.

He will not bad-mouth any particular school, but I interpret his "there are some good schools in Austria" as ungrudging, and his raised eyebrows over French *laissez-faire* methodology as warning signals. What really angers him are the idiots who try to learn on their own outside a school, or the unlicensed cowboy instructors who, he says, are responsible for the great majority of accidents.

We are interrupted by shouts of "Claude, Claude!" from all over the field, as the fledglings are finally ready to spread their wings. Every student is seemingly suspended at the foot of the brightly coloured rectangle of sail by dozens of spider-web strings.

"Relax!" he urges Mary. She manages a weak grin as Claude carefully checks the suspending strings for knots, the harness and risers for twists.

The sail is laid upside-down on the uphill terrain immediately behind the pupil, with the outside edges slightly curled into a horse-shoe arc. The idea is that by running forward with arms outstretched, the leading edge of the chute will be pulled up into the air and the cylindrical cells inflated to create a solid wing.

"OK, Claude?" Mary asks anxiously. Claude adjusts the rear risers resting on Mary's shoulders and says, "I'm going to tell you exactly when to run. Be aggressive. Go!"

Mary arches her back, the chute rises with a loud crackle of nylon into the still, summer-like air. "Run, run!" Claude shouts. But the resistance of the canopy in the air makes it hard for petite Mary to gain momentum.

As soon as she is underway, Claude, running along at her shoulder, yells: "Let go the front risers! Keep running, longer steps!" As she paddles down the hill, the sail takes on

a life of its own, lifting each step higher off the ground until Mary is just skimming the surface.

"Now pull on the brakes!" Claude shouts. And the kite comes billowing down on a winded, wound-up and jubilant new convert to *parapente*.

"I hate instructors who don't run along with their pupils," Claude confides as we trudge along with Mary to the top of the hill, her sail furled around her like a butterfly's wings. This must be part of the new concern because nobody ever ran with me. Running exercises continue until lunch. "Don't forget your helmet," Claude cautions Dave. Sweltering in an insulated ski suit, Dave looks as if he would like to take more than his head-gear off. The thermometer in the sun reads 30°C.

"The conditions here are just too good," Claude remarks wearily. "We've had six weeks of perfect weather."

In the afternoon the class is bussed up the mountain for its first flight. The school guarantees a first-day flight of some 300 vertical metres. But on a good day a quick learner may make a grand total of more than 1,000 vertical metres down into the valley floor.

I wait, camera ready, down at the school landing zone, where Claude is armed with two brightly coloured paddles to guide pupils into turns and to tell them exactly when to haul on the brakes for the landing stall.

In the air, turning is an easy matter of gently tugging on the brakes. Judging how to approach the field and when to pull up is an acquired skill.

At the end of the day, Mary is judged ready for a long flight into the already dark valley. Kathy is not. Claude confers with two other instructors on whether Mary's beginner chute is big enough to carry her light weight over the high tension wires running down

the valley between the take-off and landing sites.

Mary's boyfriend Peter, an accomplished pilot, flies chase *parapente* as she lifts off from 2,300m. He can see that, having lost altitude in a necessary turn, she is too low for the wires. Peter can see Mary checking the terrain below for emergency landing fields. Flying parallel with the electric lines, Mary eventually comes to a dip in the terrain which enables her to cross the wires safely.

At the landing zone, Claude is visibly impressed and congratulatory. "Nothing is more important to good flying than a cool head," he insists.

"Where's Peter?" Mary asks. Claude and I have been watching Peter sink like a rock, despite radical efforts to pull out of a gentle stall by advancing his leading edge. Fortunately, he lands in an open field.

Later analysis shows a "fired" chute. After more than 100 flights, the strings have deformed to alter the wing configuration, sinking the chute.

Next day, Peter is out flying the latest Genair 26, which so impresses him ("flies like a Rolls-Royce", he enthuses) that he snaps it up for £800. Not to be outdone, Mary enrolls for the full course of flying and theory lessons leading to the Swiss federal licence (£500). It may be fun, but it ain't cheap.

TRAVEL NOTES

Paragliding is a thriving business at most large ski resorts. Many, however, do not offer the south-facing unobstructed gradual slopes which make Verbier the acknowledged paradise of alpine *parapente*. Zermatt and Saas Fee do not have schools. Chamonix is difficult, even for experts. Val d'Isère and the Arberg region in Austria offer good possibilities. Courchevel is criticized for issuing flying licences somewhat precipitately.

Most package holiday insurance policies specifically exclude *parapente*. If you join the Swiss Federation of Vol Libre (E6) you are eligible for an annual policy offering £400,000 medical coverage for a £400 premium.

In normal winters, take-offs and landings on skis vastly reduce chances of injury. But to get an official licence you must take the test without skis, on bare ground.

The Centre Parapente in Verbier is the oldest and biggest in Switzerland. Instructors speak English. Write to: Claude Ammann, Centre Parapente, 1906 Verbier, Switzerland.

TRAVEL NEWS

Surcharges are back on the holiday scene. Nearly 40 companies, including Sovereign, Enterprise, Thomas Cook, Kestrel, Inghams, P & O Air Holidays, PGL Young Adventure and Cosmos, have had their surcharge proposals approved by the Association of British Travel Agents. As ABTA members, the companies are pledged to absorb the first 2 per cent of cost increases, and the surcharges apply to only some destinations and departure dates in the companies' programmes.

Only a small proportion of mainly long-haul package holidays is affected by rising aviation fuel prices. Most holidays are covered by tour operators' no-surcharge guarantees. A newcomer this week to the growing number of companies which promise no surcharges is Caribbean Connection (01-631 4482).

The Stella, a working boat converted into a hotel, will be making three spring cruises in The Netherlands and Belgium between March and May. Ports of call on the week-long voyages include Haarlem, Keukenhof, Delft, Rotterdam.

Gouda, Alameer and Maarsse. For a shared twin cabin the price is £769 all found (0736 91726).

Day trips from Gatwick to Budapest, Prague and Warsaw have been organized by Island Sun (0293 547300). In-flight meals and a city sightseeing tour are included for £159.

Air Europe is offering a two-for-the-price-of-one deal on business class flights before February 12 to Brussels, Paris, Munich and Geneva. Brussels costs £194, Paris £204, Munich £266 and Geneva £308 (reservations: 0293 562626).

Shona Crawford Poole
Travel Editor

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TRAVEL

Stalking ghosts in old Havana

Anne McElvoy,
in Cuba,
visits haunts
of rebels
old and new

As I stepped on board the Cubana flight in Paris, a chunk of aeroplane door clattered to my feet. The air hostesses giggled helplessly. Inside, the air-conditioning belched dry ice into the cabin and we groped for our seats like unwilling extras in a heavy metal video. The plane arrived in Havana next day, but only half of the luggage did. The Cuban experience is unmistakable from the beginning: two parts laughter to one part confusion with a twist of anarchy.

I headed for Cuba intending to do some work, which proved foolishly optimistic. Most projects having been put paid to by the cheerful daily greeting of the Press department, "Yes, we have no interviews today", there was no alternative but to settle down and enjoy the place.

Havana is a sort of capital for which one has to steel oneself, so I put a first foot gingerly into the old town, a melancholy place, full of echoes of past splendour, its pleasures are sharp, lively, and mainly accompanied by alcohol, the ideal milieu for getting rid of any aestheticism that might have been unwittingly accumulated over the years.

Many are the lost souls who have tried to eat at the Bodeguita del Medio, the haunt of Hemingway, Greene and the assorted literary goodtimers who washed up in the Caribbean. You are offered a minty mojito cocktail while you wait for a table and, like the first pomegranate seed in Hades, you are trapped at the bar for the rest of the evening. The table never materializes, but after two mojitos no one much cares.

Errol Flynn called the Bodeguita "the best place to get drunk", and he should have known. Hemingway scrawled his personal credo on the wall: "My daiquiri in the Florida, my mojito in the Bodeguita".

Cubans are fascinated by Hemingway, probably because he was one of the few gringos as laid back as themselves. He enjoyed semi-mythical status on the island, but his books are nowhere to be found. Cuban bookshops being stocked almost exclusively with the minor works of Lenin and Engels remained by the rest of the Eastern Bloc.

There are queues for everything in Havana, even to join other queues. They provide a splendid excuse for dawdling in the sun and chatting to Cubans who, once the formalities of "You change money?" and "Give me chewing gum?" are accomplished, are open to chat on most topics, except, at the moment, the uncertain future of their leader.

At the Coppelia ice-cream garden waiting time for a cone averages an hour, after which time the ice-cream runs out. Cubans, well versed in the vagaries of supply, celebrate their victory by buying two cones at once. The ice-cream is delicious, one of Cuba's few culinary triumphs. What is it about socialism that produces such heavenly ice-cream in the midst of economic disaster?

Hotels range from the faded glory of the Inglaterra, with its stuccoed ceilings as high as the heavens, to the exquisitely tasteless Riviera, built like most of Havana's modern hotels with Mafia money in the 1950s. Meyer Lansky cooked his various nefarious books from here while appearing modestly in the accounts



Splendour past on Havana seaford: behind the new crumbling, sea-sprayed facades lie the old, colourful eating houses, "haunts of Hemingway, Greene and the assorted literary goodtimers who washed up in the Caribbean"

as the kitchen administrator. At the grandiose Museum of the Revolution, schoolchildren swarm in riotous assembly. Clad in mustard yellow with red kerchiefs, they learn noisily about the "interventions, provocations and imperialist aggressions" of Cuban history. Ronald Reagan has pride of place in the Rogues' Gallery, caricatured in cowboy dress with the message: "Thank you, idiot, for strengthening the Revolution".

The museum is a treasure trove of revolutionary minutiae: keys to the Sierra Maestra safe houses displayed next to the handmaidens of the Revolution ran up their heroes' uniforms and the jacket worn by Fidel Castro on his triumphal entry into Havana.

'As we stumbled into breakfast, the locals were already clinking tumblers brimming with rum'

preserved as a relic. The children pause solemnly in front of outsize pictures of Castro and his fellow rebels, most of whom bear a disconcerting resemblance to the young Buddy Holly. Suitably re-educated, I headed for Santiago de Cuba at the far tip of the island, the cradle of the Revolution, driving along Cuba's main highway. It is a vast expanse of pot-holed four-lane road largely bereft of cars, with horse-drawn carts occupying the inside lane and joggers pounding up the central reservation.

I stopped in the seaside town of Cienfuegos, home to an improbable Moorish museum with a roof terrace bravely dispensing cocktails as strong as the sea winds which buffeted it. Neither the staff nor the clientele seemed perturbed by a sudden electric storm and everyone carried

on, clutching their mojitos a little more fervently than usual. Downstairs at the grand piano, an ageing Ella Fitzgerald look-alike with purple hair crooned Cole Porter to a dining-room packed with tipsy Russian functionaries.

Inland, it was tempting to linger longer than planned in Trinidad, a sleepy, elegant Spanish colonial town with low houses painted in sugary pastels. Its central square is a relic of Fifties life, with emerald green, raspberry red and shimmering pink Chevrolets and Buicks cruising in the early evening to salsa music, their drivers vocally admiring the generously proportioned local womanhood. "The Cuban shape," one explained to my companion, "big nice".

As we stumbled down to an early breakfast next day, the locals were already installed at the bar, clinking tumblers brimming with rum. As breakfast comprised the ubiquitous and terrifying glutinous cheese sandwich, they appeared to have made the better choice.

Hemingway declared that "The first duty of the Revolution is work" which, given the extent of inactivity all around, may well have been one of Fidel Castro's practical jokes.

The further one proceeds towards Santiago de Cuba, the more fervent the declarations of socialist faith. The town hall there delivers the ultimatum: "My country or death, socialism or death, Marxist-Leninism or death".

Unaffected by such uncompromising choices, the population trades openly in dollars on the street — still illegal currency for most Cubans — and old men play draughts at tables on the pavement.

No amount of socialism has managed to re-educate the sycophants of Santiago; it remains a town of rum and music. Rumba, salsa and Cuban jazz emanate from tiny bars with the clientele standing five deep in the road outside to tap their feet until the early morning.

No Caribbean holiday

would be complete without the statutory period on a deserted beach. So we chose the island of Cayo Largo, an officially designated paradise for dollar tourists, where the staff are so polite — not a natural Cuban attribute — that they appear to be under threat of the death penalty for rudeness and have to be prevented from sitting in one's lap out of enthusiasm to please.

The seafood is good — giant lobster, prawns and spicy fish — and the national motto, "It is not possible", is banned. A complaint that we had not had our full share of snorkelling time elicited a complete re-

fund and there are no queues, mainly because there are no Cubans, apart from those drafted in to wait on foreigners' whims.

A sort of pleasure Alcatraz, it is still mostly undiscovered, and the local crabs scuttle around the swimming pool in a last hopeless gesture of defiance before the invaders. Go there before people like us arrive in larger numbers to ruin the place for ever.

Back in Havana, we spent a last long night at the Tropicana. Meyer Lansky's ghost surely stalks the palm trees at the open-air cabaret, the most excessive spectacle of glitz and ostrich feathers left on earth. The compere announced that the Tropicana is what became of the Garden of Eden after the fall of man. And as the Caribbean moon slowly emerged to outshine the rude electricals on the stroke of midnight, I thought he might well be right.

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Street bar: in such a place, Errol Flynn fell to the lethal mojito

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TRAVEL

'An army of statues shrouded in protective plastic to ward off cold weather and rain'



Versailles, January 1990. The excitement of the bicentenary celebrations of the French Revolution last year seems far off as some of the army of statues in the Palais are shrouded in protective plastic to ward off the effects of cold weather (which has still not arrived) and the destructive power of acid rain.

The massive effort to spruce up France's historic monuments ahead of the 1789/1989 jamboree cost the state a small fortune in cleaning, remoulding, recasting and the generous application of gold leaf. Money well spent, though. Versailles, like Paris, was in sparkling condition for the army of tourists who flocked in to help with the celebrations and left almost enough of their cash behind to balance the huge French trade deficit.

Not that the French were uniformly enthusiastic about 1789 and all that. In Versailles, as elsewhere, there were complaints that bicentennial funds might better be spent on improvements to local facilities.

In any year, maintaining the Palais, with its 67 staircases, 352 chimneys, 2,000-plus windows, and 11 hectares of roof, is very much a full-time job. As for the 95 hectares of garden, in which these carefully wrapped statues now stand so forlornly, their greatest glory may have long departed, but when the plastic comes off in the spring, the tourists will assuredly be back.

An irony accompanies the forlornly wrapped statues: many a Versailles would pass up the expensively restored glories of the Palais without a second glance in exchange for improved local facilities. Photograph: Alistair Grant



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